

Saturday Review

Hot damn, they gave her a wonderful funeral! Opened up the English Cemetery in Piazzale Donatello, brought in the quality from all over Europe, charmed them out of the woodwork all over Florence, rounded it off with an address by the old Ambassador that made you proud you'd ever known her; even if it made you wonder whether he had.

I kept looking at the Daughter to see what she was making of it, but the Daughter didn't give much away.

She had one of those handsome English horse faces, like her mother, I recognized her straight off from the only picture I'd ever seen of her. I guess the only one in the whole house.

It was in an upstairs sitting room where I'd wandered in one day by mistake, fetching something for Alice. There it was, on a black lacquer Chinese bureau—I'd recognized that, as well, one of many questionable things I'd seen knocking around the Florentine saloons—a framed photograph of her and Alice in a broad-brimmed hat, both of them in summer dresses.

The Daughter must have been about sixteen; Alice was smiling, but the Daughter wasn't. I could tell who she was right away, from the resemblance. Alice had a hand on her shoulder, but there was no proximity; the Daughter might have been a stick of furniture, something else she'd picked up in the saloons, and she herself looked as if she'd just been arrested.

I never mentioned the photograph to Alice; it didn't do to talk about the Daughter. She was always somewhere else, in Paris or New York, she was meant to have been married a few times. Alice was disappointed in her; that we did know. Or jealous of her, maybe; jealous just because she was younger. She never liked women being younger.

As the Ambassador got going, his bald head blazing in the sun, as he made with all the phrases, "This courageous woman..." this rare being whose life was dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in her own life and that of others... who loved the arts, but placed integrity and honesty above all else... I saw the Daughter's mouth twitch, just once, I saw her feet shuffle in her Gucci shoes, but she never sighed or said a word. She was far too cool and cute for that.

I guessed she must have come about the will; there wouldn't be too much filial devotion there. There had to be a will, and from what I knew of Alice, she'd have left the whole lot to the cats' home rather than the Daughter, but you never knew, and if you had the right advocate and the will was drawn in Italy, there was always a chance.

On he went, the old boy, his face bright purple in the heat. He must have been boiling in the dark, old-fashioned suit he wore; the kind he always wore, crickets, who were making one hell of a racket in the long, long grass.

That grass looked like it hadn't been cut for years, and the cemetery as if no one had been buried there for years before that. With its huge, high walls that kept it out of sight, there in the lee of San Domenico, before Florence goes shocking uphill toward Fiesole, it was as much a relic as the Ambassador himself; as poor old Alice, come to that. I'd always known the place was there, but I'd never thought of looking at it, and now that I was, I found it fascinating, with its cracked tombstones, commemorating all those Empire builders who'd come out here to die, all those old maids and aristocrats and patrons of the arts who'd come out here to live.

If you had a taste for symbolism, the old cemetery, lying here was like being buried on English soil, in the kind of England Alice used to know.

The people who'd come out into the light from under stones, the old princeps and the moulting duchesses, the moth-eaten marchesi and the crumbling conti, the two or three old nannies who were still left in Florence, and the up-market English who'd stopped visits with Alice, bowed their heads, tried to look reverent and tried not to look dead. I guessed most of them were simply feeling glad it wasn't them.

When they caught my eye, the ones who knew me or had known me, they quickly looked away. I was bad medicine, not part of the *combustio*. Twenty years ago, when I'd arrived from the States, I'd tried that little scene, but for long.

The British Consul was there, of course, wearing one of those strange, soft, shapeless hats that British consuls wear, at least in public, looking hot and pink and bored—I believe she'd snubbed a few consuls in her time—and there was someone up from the embassy in Rome, in a striped suit and another high-top hat.

There was the Reverend Arthur Deeley, who'd picked his way through the service like a goat down a mountain, looking like a Yankee preacher, still hanging on to his job by a thread; and there was Robin Holmes. He looked at me, the usual quick glance out of the corner of his eye, then went back to looking reverent. God knows he'd had a lot of practice.

We knew what we thought of one another, though we'd never had a hard word. He'd been hanging around that villa for



Very much reality

by Brian Glanville

years, cataloguing this, advising on that, creeping about like a vertical lizard, flattening himself against walls, terrified I'd call him on something, some day, though I never did.

I just watched the pictures and the objects come and go, and wondered how the hell he got away with it. Now and again he'd make a big play of asking my advice. "How would you evaluate this, Mr. Glanville?"

"Why, Mr. Holmes," I'd say, "the very same way you have." He was dressed in a white, lightweight wool and fine suit, more appropriate for the weather than for the occasion, and he didn't look so much as worried; probably wondering what flower he could flit to now.

In spite of his name and his red, curly hair and his New England drawl, he never seemed the All American he tried to be. His skin was too dark and his movements were too fidgety. He fawned on her, she tolerated him, just as, in quite another way, I felt she tolerated the Ambassador.

He was still at it, poor old boy. "Those who have known her will experience a gap in their lives that can never adequately be filled, the product of a world perhaps more generous and more spacious than today's... of a society which put a premium on decency, duty, charity and refinement... an artist of no mean gift herself, she loved the arts, and artists reciprocated her affection..."

I found myself staring at his shoes; heavy, black and highly polished, square toed, cut as high as boots, I'd always thought they must be made for him in London. I looked at the Reverend Deeley and he smiled, the slightest flicker, instantly suppressed; he couldn't afford to take any chances.

...her beauty was not merely a physical one...

I don't think it ever had been. The nose was too big, the chin was too long. From what I could see from the pictures and paintings that she had around the house, she looked better when she got older, but she behaved like a beauty; with the composure and the candour and the ex-patiation. People were meant to run around her.

Afterwards, we went to the villa, up the hill to Fiesole. I sat in a car with Robin Holmes and the Reverend Deeley. The Reverend Deeley was chuckling. "I could surely use a drink," he said. "You know

the most amusing thing? I reckon the old boy believed it." Holmes didn't say a thing; he just sat there looking disapproving. Maybe he did disapprove.

"I could tell you things," the Reverend Deeley said. "Jesus, I could tell you things." Holmes looked straight ahead, pretending not to hear him. I just looked out of the window. I had no time for Deeley, and he knew it.

It was a glorious day, but then of course it would be just past noon, the light still very sharp, the villas and the cypresses standing out clear as a Breughel on the hill. I thought of all the times I'd been up there to see Alice, driving through the great green gates, crunching up the drive to those grounds, that garden, all that opulence, that massive villa with its russet walls, its vines and sunblinds.

The car stopped in the drive, among the other cars, Lancias and Fiats and her own old Rolls. "Guess it's the last time I'll be up here," said Deeley, with a big, sad sigh, thinking of all the drinks and dinners that he wouldn't be getting. "I'll miss that. Guess in a way I'll miss her, too. You'll miss her, won't you, Robin?" he asked, his little pig eyes lighting up.

"Of course," said Robin. "It was a privilege to know her." "You, too, Peter, huh?" said Deeley, climbing out of the car. "Why, yes," I said. "I love to hear her sitting on the servants."

It was true, though I guess I shouldn't have said it. Robin Holmes moved away from me as fast as he could, past the cloud of hydrangeas, past the swaths of bougainvillea, afraid that if he stayed any longer near me, he'd be associated with me.

As for the priest, it even pulled him up short, just for a moment, then he remembered he was meant to laugh at that kind of thing, and he did; not too loud, though.

"Well," he said, laughing, "well," looking more than ever like a vaudeville turn, with his turned-up nose and his dark rubber face.

One of the servants was at the door to greet us, the butler; in his blue striped tunic, grave as ever, he didn't look any sorrier or any gladder than he ever did when I'd been up there. I'd never seen him smile or

heard him say more than a few words; whatever Alice may have said to him, or however she said it. "Bring this! Leave that! Put that there! No, there Now now! Not that! I don't want it cold!"

Now, I guessed, the poor bastard must be working out what he'd do; he was in his fifties, he'd find it hard to get another job like this, even if she had been what she was; and she sure as hell wouldn't have left him much in her will.

Upstairs in the big salotto, among all the *sifficentissimo* *renacimiento*, beneath the Gobelins, which was one of the good things she had, and her own timid little watercolours, which weren't to see Alice, driving again what the daughter would be left; and I guess she was wondering, too.

No-one much spoke to her, least of all the Ambassador. I got to watching them, as they moved around the room, each behaving as if the other wasn't there, as if they'd both been programmed to avoid each other.

The butler and his wife passed round trays of *aperitivo*, the dug-out Florentines avoided me. I felt sorry for the Ambassador. He looked quite stunned, though he went through the motions as he always did, so composed and courteous and dignified, an absolute gentleman.

I think it was the man from the embassy. "There was no-one like her; there never has been and there never will be," and suddenly I was reminded of another time, another party, in this very room.

She was sitting in her high-backed chair, very *grande dame*, she sat it like a throne, when I heard her say quietly to a pretty English poet, "If I was 20 years younger, I'd have made a pass at you."

The Ambassador hadn't heard, and if he had, he would never have believed it. It was a glimpse of the old Alice, who wouldn't have stayed around ten minutes for the old Ambassador—or, I guess, the younger Ambassador—would hardly have given him the time of day, and would have shocked the hell out of him if she had.

The old Ambassador was very, very old. He'd treated Alice like a piece of porcelain, stood up when she'd come into rooms or when she left him, hung on every word she'd said like Holy Writ, till sometimes I'd wondered how she stood it. Then

it dawned on me; she liked a courtier. She needed one, when she was playing queen.

The Daughter didn't though. Watching the Ambassador, I found all at once that I was speaking to her. She had her mother's impudence, and she didn't try to hide it, those brusque bad manners that the English upper classes do so well.

"What do you do?" she asked me, when our trails crossed. "How did you know my mother?" She made it sound like a crime.

"I guess I'm an art historian," I said. "You guess?" "If you want to label me, then that's as good a way as any."

She was wearing dark glasses now. Perhaps she always did. Perhaps she'd taken them off in the cemetery out of a rictus of respect. They made her look still more predatory. She was very thin; she seemed as though she'd been burned up. Again, I thought how much she looked like Alice: chin, nose, mouth.

"That explains it," she said, and *disappeared* away to find something more interesting. I saw the Ambassador looking at her. He was still bearing up well, but his eyes were glassy, his underlip webbed just a little, he was obviously still in shock. I wondered if what he sensed in her was Alice; she was right outside his range.

Robin looked on her, but he didn't last long either, though he sure tried hard. Give her her due, she got his number early. He followed her about a while, hovering on the fringes of her conversation, but it wouldn't work; she just froze him out. That was one tough cookie.

Nine months later came the diaries. To tell the truth, I'd been expecting something, though it wasn't that. I'd heard the Daughter had got nothing from the will, and I knew she wouldn't take that lying down. I thought of her at the funeral breakfast in her dark glasses, like the Wicked Fairy at the feast.

It was Deeley who showed me, of course. He came up to me in Via Tornabuoni, brandishing a newspaper. "Have you seen, have you seen?" he said. "It had to be some scandal, he wouldn't look so happy if it weren't, and by God, it was. We went into Deeley's to read the paper; for once, I wasn't going to give him the slip. And there it was, pages of it, all in a

fancy English newspaper, the kind she must have taken herself, done up with lots of her photographs; Alice at Ascot in her twenties, dressed to kill among the grey top hats; Alice all soul, melting for the camera in some stately home; Alice arm-in-arm with her friend, the pianist, Maria.

Maria was prettier, Alice was taller, Maria had dark curls and a saucy little mouth; there was something provocative about her, and at the same time, something hapless; quite a combination. There was a biography of her, boxed in black type. She'd left her husband for Alice and she'd never gone back to him; she'd died twelve years ago in Boston.

I'd heard of her, but never heard her play; I guess she'd been pretty good. Pretty good in bed as well, by the sound of it. Deeley pointed out the passages to me, jabbing at them with his big fat finger.

That night, with Maria, I reached the summit of erotic happiness, fulfillment I have never found with any man. They'd been around the world together, consummating their lusts in four-star hotels, wherever the sun shone: Nice, Madeira, even the Bahamas.

"The beauty of her tanned body is something wondrous to me. I want to possess it; and I want to paint it." There was a painting, too; or a photograph of one. It looked better than most of those I'd seen by Alice; the watercolours and the glowing portraits. A nude—Maria—reclining on a tropical beach, the pose abandoned, head thrown back, an arm thrown back, a glimpse of public hair.

"Oh, my," said the Reverend Deeley, pointing at it. "Oh, my, what will the Ambassador make of that?"

Indeed, what would he? The question stabbed me like a sword. "He knew she'd got the diaries," Deeley said. "Robin Holmes said he stomped around the room one day, just after the funeral, shouting out, 'she stole them, she stole them!'"

"Yes, I'm sure she did," I said, and didn't stay much longer. I simply couldn't stand his glee. The old Ambassador was a deluded sap, but I guessed he must be really going through it.

I knew that he was still at the villa. It was going to be sold, she hadn't left it to him—or to anyone—but until it had

been, he was kind of caretaker, hanging on among the memories. Apparently Robin Holmes was still creeping around it, too, under the pretext of valuing things.

I'd made a habit of avoiding him, just as I'd avoided Deeley, when he came into town, but now I kept a look out for him. I was intrigued. I wondered how the poor old guy was taking it. I was sorry for him, yet I was fascinated by it all.

There he'd been with his myth, his grand illusion, and suddenly the goddess had become a bitch goddess; the predatory lesbian, selfish as a spoilt child, grabbing what she could where she could.

So next time I saw Holmes, in San Lorenzo market, cruising the stalls beneath that overpowering bulk, I spoke to him. It shocked him. At first he bridled like a deer, longing to bolt, but there among the stalls and shoppers it was just too crowded, and he had to stay.

"How's the Ambassador?" I asked. "He's taken it badly," Holmes said. There was a thumping basket in his hand. He'd been turning over cheap apples, and I guess he was ashamed I'd seen him. "At first he shut himself in his room."

His room? I'd wondered about that, as well. What kind of guest had he been, a paying guest? And did he have dreams of making love to her? I didn't think so; Alice had to be untouchable.

"When he did come out, he couldn't speak. He behaved as if nobody were there." That cute sublimative. "He seemed to walk about in a trance. He ignored me. He wouldn't see a soul. Not even a doctor."

Poor old booby. "They brought him me," he wouldn't eat. At night, they said they heard him prowling round the house. Then he started writing. Page upon page. I don't know what he sat there in his room; just writing, then locking it away. They gave up serving regular meals. They just left food around and hoped he'd eat it. By and by, he did.

Then, last week, he finally spoke to me. He said, "Of course, it's scandalous." I said it was. "Concocted, all of it," he said. "A shameful fabrication. A woman of such perfect purity!"

I shook my head, remembering the pages of facsimiles in the diaries of Alice's diaries. It was her writing, not a doubt

about it; hardly change fifty years.

"He blames the Daughter," I said. "Oh, yes, entirely. For her for everything. For the diaries, and for I think."

"Good God." "And now she's coming back. She says the things there that belong to 'I see.' I said, and it I did. She wanted to be what she'd done, to look and glow. 'We mustn't happen,' I said."

"How can we stop it?" "Then I met the Ambassador. Only a few days toddling down the Tus near the Ponte Santa I. It was a cold, bright day the river ran fast, a kind."

He'd looked old before he'd aged further. There was a sprightliness about a kind of cheery alertness absolute anachronism, of his time, but still fitting on his own terms. N that had gone. He drooped slumped, and I lost weight. When first I spoke to I didn't recognize me. "E said. 'What?' He bemused. Then I explain he remembered."

"Oh, yes," he said, used to come quite something to do with ar "I write about it."

"Yes," he said, and I shuffle on, but I stop. Per. curiously, I guess pity; he looked so alone. I asked him for coffee, and he came thinking for a bit. "O all right, I suppose the gracious had at. When he was there, salotto, he was mostly he seemed full of pain, a bit about the weather while—I'd heard that what was a good finally he said, 'abominable'."

"It was," I said. "However she might whatever had gone on. An act of total ma."

"Yes," I said, and stared at me. "You know her well? Could you believe a it?" His pale, old eye-like stones. I shook my it might have meant a, but seemed to satisfy."

He was quiet; again wanted to go on, but could tell that, but all bringing fought against whole experience of building, still in upper li years and years of shoflag, keeping the na order, ending up whe was; Ambassador to Curitiba, somewhere i. So it could come, our short sharp burst, wh too strong for him to si.

"You must come me," he said before and I did. I went eve He was a little better while. The silences wte, the outbursts few could talk to him. bi Holmes was often there and evaporating. The took hardly any notice as I have said, the oblige was wearing thi. Then the Daughter say what she was com that threw him again, talked, which still wast it was only about ti mammoth imperious outrageous insolence, not be here. I shall n home to her. She m have to take what sh I have no desire to see.

But she wanted to see once she got in thi there would be no her; she would follow home. I was a painin wanted was a painting, Chirico—he had been of her mother's circle she said had been given she had the letter."

"I was painting tha don't before, but I dis beneath his own mania portico in Siena; it stark light, the same shapes and shadows. "Why don't you her?" I asked.

"Oh, there are othe as well. She can take I want."

So she came. I was it so was Robin Holmes. black day, one of clo out of doors, you c thrashed by the rain. Was blurred under a light.

All that afternoon w for her, the old man Holmes and I. He spoke, though when he brought us coffee, he up and ask for cog. When we heard the tin drive it acted on his in. His face still didn't chair, so tense, so full that I feared he might. The doorbell rang; v the butler went into open the front door; n her voice, the butler's I up the stairs. He kno in. His face still didn't anything. "La Signora. Show her up," the said.

I looked at Holm seemed petrified. W there, yet we were q tranous. There waso thing we could do. I thought of the sta there she was. She wore mink over a cream gold chain round her I sunglasses. She smiled she didn't look at me. I shan't be long," she said. He stood up, breath hard. His cheeks were red. He seemed about t His mouth opened; it came. Again she smiled again he tried.

"How could you?" I said. "How could you?" "There were tears in I Quite, suddenly. I was talking to the Di & Brian Glanville 1980."

27/11/80 1:50

Paperbacks

e making
of a
sterpieced. Youth and Exile by
Herzen.

4th of September 1970

leader commemorated
due plaque at 1, Orsett
off Westbourne Ter-
a house lived in for
Alexander Herzen

Russian revolutionary

who acquired Swiss

in exile from Tsarist

repression and cen-

The unveiling of this

y the Soviet Ambas-

s not without irony,

s in his magnificent

s. My Post and

vehemently con-

totalitarian abuse of

freedom. A protest

inent, coming as it did

s, who witnessed the

s of political and

s form as it swept

Russia and Europe in

century, and who had

active participant,

s, involved with the

s the protagonists who

s he did, prison and

s their fight for dem-

od. Youth & Exile,

s of Herzen's four

s masterpiece, is now

s 'The World's Clas-

s. James Duff's

s, originally published

s (Constance Garnett's

s appeared in 1924),

s, a remarkable essay

s in which is as mar-

s stimulating as the

s by itself, which Pro-

s estimates to be the

s the great monuments

s literary and psycho-

s worthy to stand

s the great novels of

s and Tolstoy.

s Moscow, six months

s soon arrived, Herzen

s son of a Russian

s and a German woman,

s heran marriage, not

s red in Russia, made

s name involved for

s jimate, although he

s up as his father's

s considerable privi-

s later inherited a vast

fortune. From his nurse he
heard the stories of the Na-
poleon invasion and the fire, and
these he retells with a topical
vividness. He describes his
father as a typical 18th century
Shawcross, by nature a mis-
anthrope. Herzen was left to
tutors and servants. The reign-
ing Tsar was Alexander I whose
death was lamented partly
because the accession of
Nicholas brought in a reign of
shocking tyranny. Herzen, then
in his teens, was like many of
his contemporaries, to find his
political awakening in the after-
math of the Decembrist revolt
of 1825. Russia then was a
nation of slaveowners, a system
abhorrent to Herzen and his
friends at Moscow University.
His memories of these times
and the personalities involved
in the events are passion-
ately conveyed in this story,
anecdote and annotation—
total condemnation of the
state's efforts to silence those
dedicated to reform.

At 19 Herzen was arrested,

kept in prison for nine months,

and sentenced to exile in

Siberia as a member of a con-

spiracy. The evidence was thin:

student talk, student writ-

ing. For three years he com-

piled statistics for the govern-

ment. As a rich young man he

was allowed to use his valet

and to visit his family in a

very comfortable house. The

difference in punishment of the

"marked" man is very clearly,

and ironically, featured. In

1838 Herzen was transferred to

Siberia in love and planning to

elope with his cousin, all of

which he describes in volume

two. This is a portrait of a

revolutionary in the making, a

young man, of great courage,

warrior, intelligent, indepen-

dent, and determined. Al-

ready one can see the man

who, more and more, to quote

Isaiah Berlin, "believed the

destruction of individual free-

dom to be neither desirable nor

inevitable, but as being highly

probable, unless it was averted

by deliberate human effort".

The footnotes to this transla-

tion are not as generous as

those in the Garnett transla-

tion, a small regret to note

about this splendid, inspiring

and memorable work.

Kay Dick

Offering a
kiss
of
deathSideshow: Kissinger, Nixon and
the Destruction of Cambodia.
by William Shawcross (Fontana,
£1.95).

When a book presents itself as

"compulsory reading" I reach

for my document shredder.

Apart from the dictatorial over-

tones, the phrase implies that

reading the work is a labour

you would undertake only under

duress.

That is decidedly not the case

with William Shawcross's mov-

ing and magnificent account of

the disintegration of a people,

although the publishers quote

the unsuitable extract from an

American review on the back

cover. For in addition to the

high quality of his analysis and

research, Shawcross's sprightly

style makes it a genuine work

of literature.

When published last year, *Sideshow*

became a bestseller, hailed by

critics of American policy in

South-East Asia over the past

two decades. Since that first

publication, much of the book's

argument has been challenged

by Dr Henry Kissinger, Shaw-

cross's villain-in-chief, in his

own ponderous memoirs.

Kissinger does not refer to

Shawcross by name, but

describes his views as "revision-

ist folklore".

Kissinger attributes the

destruction of Cambodia not to

the American invasion or extrava-

gant bombing, but to the

series of events which began

with Lon Nol's coup in 1970

and ended in 1975 with what he

saw as a failure of American

nerve. Shawcross has not suc-

ceeded in establishing American

complicity in the coup, but he

argues that, instead of support-

ing Lon Nol, the United States

should have encouraged Prince

Sihanouk, whom he replaced,

to make a new bid for power.

This is a weakness in the

Shawcross thesis. Sihanouk, a

shrill and self-indulgent aristoc-

rat, shared many qualities with

the Vicar of Bray. He may have

been more savvy than Lon Nol,

but the lesson of the last

20 years is that for any regime

(such as Vietnam, Iran), Ameri-

can intervention on its behalf

is in the long term, the kiss of

death.

The real moral of *Sideshow*

is not that the Americans sup-

ported the wrong man but that

military involvement overseas

on a scale likely to be effective

cannot be sustained, if the

American people cannot bring

themselves to make a commit-

ment to it. When a President

decides that he has to keep his

acts of war (the early Cambod-

ian bombings) secret from the

people on whose behalf he is

supposed to be undertaking

them; democracy becomes an

absurdity.

President Carter has under-

stood this, which is why his

response to Soviet incursions

into Afghanistan has been

limited to the imposition of an

athletic quarantine. It is also

why there has been no attempt

at an armed rescue of the

Tehran hostages. Five years

ago, when the Cambodians cap-

tured the crew of the American

ship *Mayaguez*, President Ford

did effect such a rescue, losing

41 men to save 40.

There are those, and Dr

Kissinger is among them, who

continue to believe that the

United States, its nerve re-

stored, can remain a world

power by pursuing a inter-

ventionist foreign policy, con-

fronting Communist expansion

and acting decisively to protect

America's perceived interests.

For those still holding such

beliefs, this book should be

compulsory reading. They would

profit from reading it.

Michael Leapman

Radio
God in
Man's image

You might say that what John

Barton and the RSC have done

for Greek tragedy, David Buck

and Radio 3 have done for the

medieval mysteries—taken

them and turned them into

one enormous story. In *The**Image of God*, Mr Buck has

combined what seemed to him

best in the surviving cycles

(mainly York, Wakefield and

Chester) and in the interests

of stylistic cohesion has re-

written everything in his own

rhyming verse. To this there

will probably be scholarly

objections, but from the point

of view of the listener's

point of view, the whole affair

must be judged a great suc-

cess.

Easter deadlines being what

they are, I have yet to hear

the last of the three lengthy

parts, but the first two leave

no doubt at all that as drama-

tist and versifier Mr Buck has

done a creditable job. As

regards his lines, they are vig-

orous and clear, using the

style and language of the tra-

ditional ballad, avoiding equally

both archaisms and usage

peculiar only to the late twen-

tieth century. This makes his

dramatic sense of the very

beginning immediately sug-

gesting that any suspicions

may have been harbouring

will be justified—for if past

experience is anything to go

by, five and a quarter hours of

medieval mystery will pose a

mystery indeed: how anybody

in his right mind could endure

the stuff. The last thing it can

be expected to offer is any

prospects of lively interest

and enjoyment, and yet, praise be

to *The Image of God* has been

at once and consistently lively,

interesting and enjoyable.

The good qualities of the

writing have helped to make

the best of good dramatic

writing. Of the most sur-

prising has been the attractive

variation of mood from scene

to scene; we have moved, for

example, from the relative

pazos of the Fall to the story

of Cain and Abel in which

Cain is quickly and convinc-

ingly characterized as a sort of

crude, jocular brute, yet with-

out obscuring the importance

of his offence. Many sequences,

like the building of the Ark,

are genuinely funny; others, like

the story of Abraham and Isaac,

unexpectedly moving.

THE ARTS

Passion and energy

As You Like It

Stratford

Irving Wardle

To open the Stratford season

with *As You Like It* in the im-

mediate wake of the last RSC

and National Theatre versions

looks like coat trailing, as per-

haps it is, given the confident

figure with which Terry Hands

stamps his signature on the

play.

In the precise sense of an

overused word, this is a per-

formance. From the opening

quarrel which erupts over the

whole downstage area, and the

wrestling match where Rosalind

and Celia join in with hisses

and hair-pulling, it is an even-

ing of fearlessly extrovert ani-

mation by a company who have

clearly been told never to be

afraid of going over the top.

It is fast, passionate, and

tightly controlled, offering

many deft scenic overlaps, as

where the girls' arcanian exit

line is met with bestial roars

from the actual forest.

There are times when the

chases, leaping entries, running

exits, and demonstrations of

how many lines you can get

through without taking a breath

suggest the work of a ring-

master more than a director.

Some effects, particularly comic

follies, and male hysteria

(confusingly duplicated between

Oliver and Duke Frederick) are

overworked. But in its general

line the show is irresistible.

This play is supposed to be

about the force of fertility and

that is what the company

delivers direct.

For all its external style the

production has strong affinities

with John Dexter's more ob-

viously mediated National

Theatre version. It too, moves

from winter towards May Day

(bringing a transformation of

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL



RAYMOND GURRAY presents

MONDAY NEXT at 8

BEETHOVEN

Egmont Overture

Piano Concerto No. 5 ("Emperor")

Symphony No. 6 ("Pastoral")

PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA

Conductor: HEINZ KRIEPS

E.T. 1.75, E.2.50, E.3.75, E.4.75, E.5.75 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

WEDNESDAY NEXT, 9 APRIL at 8 p.m.

ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

JOHN PRITCHARD

KIRI TE KANAWA

HAYDN: Symphony No. 95 in C minor

MOZART: Exultate, Jubilate, K.165

Or sal che Poesie (Don Giovanni)

SCHUBERT: Symphony No. 3 in D

E.T. 1.40, E.2.10, E.3.00, E.3.70, E.4.40, E.5.20 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

TUESDAY 15 APRIL at 3 p.m.

ATARA'S BAND

CHILDREN'S FUN CONCERT

For details see South Bank panel

Philharmonia Orchestra

Music Director: Riccardo Muti

SIMON RATTLE

conducts

Tuesday 15 April at 8 p.m.

Beethoven: Violin Concerto

IDA HAENDEL

ANN MURRAY

Mahler: Symphony No. 4

Friday 18 April at 8 p.m.

Brahms: Violin Concerto

IDA HAENDEL

Mahler: Symphony No. 10

(complete performing version by Gerd Albrecht)

E.T. 1.40, E.2.10, E.3.00, E.3.70, E.4.40, E.5.20 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

THE ANGLO-AUSTRIAN MUSIC SOCIETY

SATURDAY, 19 APRIL at 8 p.m.

VIENNA & ST. PETERSBURG

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Introduced and conducted by BERNARD KEEFFE

Works by Johann Strauss, Richard Strauss, Tchaikovsky, Mussorgsky, Glazunov

E.T. 1.75, E.2.50, E.3.75, E.4.75, E.5.75 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

SUNDAY, 20 APRIL at 3.15 p.m.

MICHAEL HOWARD

organ and piano

ELAINE PEARCE soprano

BACH: Prelude and Fugue in G minor; Fugue in C major (Wolmar)

Prelude and Fugue in G minor; Prelude and Fugue in C major (Wolmar)

Two Dramatic Scenes (1st perf.)

9.00, E.T. 1.60, E.2.30, E.3.00, E.3.70 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

MONDAY, 5 MAY at 8 p.m.

EMIL GILELS

soloist director

with ELENA GILELS

MOZART programme

Symphony No. 39, K.543

Concerto for two pianos, K.365

Piano Concerto, K.395

Philharmonia Orchestra

E.T. 1.50, E.2.30, E.3.25, E.4.00, E.4.75, E.5.50 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Management: IBS & TILLET

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

RAYMOND GURRAY presents

TOMORROW at 7.15

VIENNESE EVENING

LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA

Conductor: MARCUS DODS

Popular Songs, Marches, Waltzes, including Blue Danube, Artists Life Waltz, Rhapsody, Polka, Loretta, Rheinische Walze, Pops & Party

E.T. 1.00, E.1.40, E.2.00, E.2.40 from Box Office (01-928 3191) & Agents

ARTHUR MARTIN presents

EASTER MONDAY & TUESDAY, 7 & 8 APRIL at 3 p.m.

Johnny Morris Family Concerts

with Douglas Coombes

The Imid Ensemble

MUSICAL GAMES * STORIES * SONGS * QUIZZES

E.T. 1.00, E.1.40, E.1.80, E.2.10, E.2.50 from Box Office (01-928 3191) & Agents

AND ALSO

BIRMINGHAM Town Hall, 24 May, 11 p.m.

MANCHESTER Free Trade Hall, 24 May, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY NEXT 10 APRIL at 7.45 p.m.

ANTHONY GOLDSTONE

plays a programme of romantic piano music from

the nineteenth and twentieth centuries including works by

Weber, Beethoven, Schumann, Mendelssohn, Liszt, Chopin, Debussy, Ravel, Grieg, Schostakovich, Prokofiev, and Albeniz

E.T. 1.00, E.1.40, E.1.80, E.2.10, E.2.50 from Box Office (01-928 3191) & Agents

Rogor Stone Management, 122 Louisa Road, N.W.8

THURSDAY, 17 APRIL at 7.45 p.m.

MALCOLM BINNS

piano

Sonnets in D minor, Op. 31 No. 2 ("Tempest") Beethoven

New Nibelungen, Op. 21, Fugue in C, Op. 7, 1st movement Beethoven

Children's Corner, Op. 78, No. 15, "The Swan" Debussy

Dona Lisa, Op. 10, No. 1, "The Swan" Liszt

E.T. 1.00, E.1.40, E.1.80, E.2.10, E.2.50 from Box Office (01-928 3191) & Agents

Management: IBS & TILLET

BAROQUE STRINGS ZURICH

Frank Cassmann: director

Silvia Schmid: soprano

Sonnets in D minor, Op. 31 No. 2 ("Tempest") Beethoven

Children's Corner, Op. 78, No. 15, "The Swan" Debussy

Dona Lisa, Op. 10, No. 1, "The Swan" Liszt

E.T. 1.00, E.1.40, E.1.80, E.2.10, E.2.50 from Box Office (01-928 3191) & Agents

Management: IBS & TILLET

ARTHUR MARTIN presents

TUESDAY 22 APRIL at 7.45 p.m.

RITA HUNTER

HAZEL VIVIANNE piano

Programme includes works by

WAGNER, MOZART, PUCK, ERDI

GERSHWIN, NOVELLO

E.T. 1.10, E.2.10, E.3.20, E.4.00 from Box Office (01-928 3191) & Agents

THURSDAY, 24 APRIL at 7.45 p.m.

Basil Douglas Ltd. presents

VLADO PERLEMUTER

piano

RAVEL: Tombeau de Couperin

CHOPIN: Polonaise Fantaisie, Op. 6 in A flat

12 Studies, Op. 25

E.T. 1.00, E.1.40, E.1.80, E.2.10, E.2.50 from Box Office (01-928 3191) & Agents

RAYMOND GURRAY presents SUNDAY 27 APRIL at 7.15

Mendelssohn: Midsummer Night's Dream Overture

Mendelssohn: Violin Concerto in 3 minor

Schubert: Symphony No. 8 (Unfinished)

Schubert: Rosamunde Overture and excerpts

LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA Conductor: MARCUS DODS

JACK ROBERTSON piano

E.T. 1.00, E.1.40, E.1.80, E.2.10, E.2.50 from Box Office (01-928 3191) & Agents

GLC South Bank Concert Halls

General Manager: Michael Kaye

Ticket reservations only: 928 3191 Mondays to Saturdays

from 10am to 6pm. Telephone bookings not accepted on Sundays.

Information: 928 3191. Information when postal bookings have

already been made: 928 2772. S.A.E. with postal applications.

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

Today 8 p.m.

STARS OF THE VIENNA VOLKSPEROR Concert Orch. Ambraser

Singer: Rudolf Heltl (cond.) Sings: Marika Helga, Paganini, Paganini

Minich Kurt Hammer Rudolf Heltl (cond.) Sings: Marika Helga, Paganini

E.T. 1.40, E.2.10, E.3.00, E.3.70, E.4.40, E.5.20 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Sunday 9 p.m.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

James Conlon (conductor) 1st. at 10.30. Sings: Marika Helga, Paganini

Mendelssohn: Symphony No. 4 (Italian); Mozart: Piano Concerto in D

E.T. 1.40, E.2.10, E.3.00, E.3.70, E.4.40, E.5.20 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Monday 10 p.m.

LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

James Conlon (conductor) 1st. at 10.30. Sings: Marika Helga, Paganini

Wagner: Overture, Die Meistersinger; Bruch: Violin Concerto No. 1

E.T. 1.40, E.2.10, E.3.00, E.3.70, E.4.40, E.5.20 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Tuesday 11 p.m.

PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA

James Conlon (conductor) 1st. at 10.30. Sings: Marika Helga, Paganini

Beethoven: Overture, Egmont; Piano Concerto No. 5 (Emperor)

E.T. 1.40, E.2.10, E.3.00, E.3.70, E.4.40, E.5.20 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Wednesday 12 p.m.

LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

James Conlon (conductor) 1st. at 10.30. Sings: Marika Helga, Paganini

Brahms: Overture, Ein deutsches Requiem; Violin Concerto No. 1

E.T. 1.40, E.2.10, E.3.00, E.3.70, E.4.40, E.5.20 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Thursday 13 p.m.

ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA John Pritchard (conductor)

Kiri Te Kanawa (soprano) 1st. at 10.30. Sings: Marika Helga, Paganini

Haydn: Exultate, Jubilate, K.165; Or sal che Poesie (Don Giovanni)

E.T. 1.40, E.2.10, E.3.00, E.3.70, E.4.40, E.5.20 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Friday 14 p.m.

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

James Conlon (conductor) 1st. at 10.30. Sings: Marika Helga, Paganini

Mendelssohn: Symphony No. 4 (Italian); Mozart: Piano Concerto in D

E.T. 1.40, E.2.10, E.3.00, E.3.70, E.4.40, E.5.20 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Saturday 15 p.m.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

James Conlon (conductor) 1st. at 10.30. Sings: Marika Helga, Paganini

Wagner: Overture, Die Meistersinger; Bruch: Violin Concerto No. 1

E.T. 1.40, E.2.10, E.3.00, E.3.70, E.4.40, E.5.20 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Sunday 16 p.m.

PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA

James Conlon (conductor) 1st. at 10.30. Sings: Marika Helga, Paganini

Beethoven: Overture, Egmont; Piano Concerto No. 5 (Emperor)

E.T. 1.40, E.2.10, E.3.00, E.3.70, E.4.40, E.5.20 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Monday 17 p.m.

LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

James Conlon (conductor) 1st. at 10.30. Sings: Marika Helga, Paganini

Brahms: Overture, Ein deutsches Requiem; Violin Concerto No. 1

E.T. 1.40, E.2.10, E.3.00, E.3.70, E.4.40, E.5.20 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Tuesday 18 p.m.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

James Conlon (conductor) 1st. at 10.30. Sings: Marika Helga, Paganini

Wagner: Overture, Die Meistersinger; Bruch: Violin Concerto No. 1

E.T. 1.40, E.2.10, E.3.00, E.3.70, E.4.40, E.5.20 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Wednesday 19 p.m.

ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA John Pritchard (conductor)

Kiri Te Kanawa (soprano) 1st. at 10.30. Sings: Marika Helga, Paganini

Haydn: Exultate, Jubilate, K.165; Or sal che Poesie (Don Giovanni)

E.T. 1.40, E.2.10, E.3.00, E.3.70, E.4.40, E.5.20 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Thursday 20 p.m.

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

James Conlon (conductor) 1st. at 10.30. Sings: Marika Helga, Paganini

Mendelssohn: Symphony No. 4 (Italian); Mozart: Piano Concerto in D

E.T. 1.40, E.2.10, E.3.00, E.3.70, E.4.40, E.5.20 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Friday 21 p.m.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

James Conlon (conductor) 1st. at 10.30. Sings: Marika Helga, Paganini

Wagner: Overture, Die Meistersinger; Bruch: Violin Concerto No. 1

E.T. 1.40, E.2.10, E.3.00, E.3.70, E.4.40, E.5.20 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Saturday 22 p.m.

PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA

James Conlon (conductor) 1st. at 10.30. Sings: Marika Helga, Paganini

Beethoven: Overture, Egmont; Piano Concerto No. 5 (Emperor)

E.T. 1.40, E.2.10, E.3.00, E.3.70, E.4.40, E.5.20 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Sunday 23 p.m.

LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

James Conlon (conductor) 1st. at 10.30. Sings: Marika Helga, Paganini

Brahms: Overture, Ein deutsches Requiem; Violin Concerto No. 1

E.T. 1.40, E.2.10, E.3.00, E.3.70, E.4.40, E.5.20 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Monday 24 p.m.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

James Conlon (conductor) 1st. at 10.30. Sings: Marika Helga, Paganini

Wagner: Overture, Die Meistersinger; Bruch: Violin Concerto No. 1

E.T. 1.40, E.2.10, E.3.00, E.3.70, E.4.40, E.5.20 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Tuesday 25 p.m.

ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA John Pritchard (conductor)

Kiri Te Kanawa (soprano) 1st. at 10.30. Sings: Marika Helga, Paganini

Haydn: Exultate, Jubilate, K.165; Or sal che Poesie (Don Giovanni)

E.T. 1.40, E.2.10, E.3.00, E.3.70, E.4.40, E.5.20 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Wednesday 26 p.m.

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

James Conlon (conductor) 1st. at 10.30. Sings: Marika Helga, Paganini

Mendelssohn: Symphony No. 4 (Italian); Mozart: Piano Concerto in D

E.T. 1.40, E.2.10, E.3.00, E.3.70, E.4.40, E.5.20 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Thursday 27 p.m.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

James Conlon (conductor) 1st. at 10.30. Sings: Marika Helga, Paganini

Wagner: Overture, Die Meistersinger; Bruch: Violin Concerto No. 1

E.T. 1.40, E.2.10, E.3.00, E.3.70, E.4.40, E.5.20 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Friday 28 p.m.

PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA

James Conlon (conductor) 1st. at 10.30. Sings: Marika Helga, Paganini

Beethoven: Overture, Egmont; Piano Concerto No. 5 (Emperor)

E.T. 1.40, E.2.10, E.3.00, E.3.70, E.4.40, E.5.20 from Hall (01-928 3191) & Agents

Saturday 29 p.m.

LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

PERSONAL CHOICE



ers and the 3-2-1 mascot Dusty Bin: The show is on the ITV network, 7.00

not supposed to be dead unless The Times says you are. You will not find Robert Stolz's name in its obituary column. These misadventures have caused an adverse judgment not on the prolific Austrian and conductor, but on that venerable depository of knowledge, Stolz, a master of melody composed 8,000 conducted the first performances of The Merry Widow in 1905. He was born the same year—Offenbach died, so it is entirely appropriate that Stolz should be the subject of the Royal Festival Hall (Radio 2, 10.00) and the Royal Albert Hall (Radio 2, 10.00) and that his music should be the subject of the Royal Festival Hall (Radio 2, 10.00) and the Royal Albert Hall (Radio 2, 10.00).

ing old, something new. John Snagge today has on his 50th birthday. As to the latter, it is not supposed to be dead unless The Times says you are. You will not find Robert Stolz's name in its obituary column. These misadventures have caused an adverse judgment not on the prolific Austrian and conductor, but on that venerable depository of knowledge, Stolz, a master of melody composed 8,000 conducted the first performances of The Merry Widow in 1905. He was born the same year—Offenbach died, so it is entirely appropriate that Stolz should be the subject of the Royal Festival Hall (Radio 2, 10.00) and the Royal Albert Hall (Radio 2, 10.00) and that his music should be the subject of the Royal Festival Hall (Radio 2, 10.00) and the Royal Albert Hall (Radio 2, 10.00).

SYMBOLS MEAN: *STEREO; *BLACK AND WHITE;

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davalle

TELEVISION

BBC 1

9.05 am *Boys Cat*: Cartoon. 9.30 *Champion*, the Wonder Horse: Old western serial. 9.55 *Feeling Great!*: The best way to stay fit. Hints from Roy Castle, Rolf Harris, Liza Goddard (r). 10.05 *Zorro*: The Walt Disney serial. 10.30 *Mickey Mouse Club*: Donald Duck cartoon, and the serial *A Horse Called Courage*. 10.50 *Film: The Hills of Home* (1946) Lassic story, formerly called *Master of Lasse*. With Edmund Gwenn, Donald Crisp, Janet Leigh. 12.27 *Weather*. 12.30 pm *Grandstand*: The line-up is: 12.35 Football Focus (with Bob Wilson); 1.05 and 3.05 American Baseball (NCAA Championships in Indianapolis); 1.35 and 2.05 Box-

BBC 2

9.15 pm *Film: Goldwyn Follies* (1938) Samuel Goldwyn musical about Hollywood. Music by the Gershwin, and starring Adolphe Menjou, Norma, Andrea Leeds and Kenney Baker. 3.05 *Film: Kid Millions* (1934). Another Goldwyn musical. About a Brooklyn lad who is left a fortune by an archaeologist. Starring Eddie Cantor, Willie Hopper, Merman, Ann Southern, George Murphy. 4.35 *Film: The Glorious Musketeers*. John Hales cartoon, after *Monty Python*. 5.40 *Five to One*: Five young

London Weekend

8.40 *Seamless Street*: Early Muppet film series, made in United States. 8.40 *Fangface*: Cartoon. Roy turns into wolf. 10.05 *Superman*: Man turns into bird. 10.30 *Tiswas*: Children's magazine programme. 12.30 pm *World of Sport*: The line-up is: 12.30 *Dickie Davies*; 12.35 *On the Ball* (football round-up); 1.00 *World Frisbee* Disc Championship from Pasadena, California; 1.15 *News*; 1.20 *The ITV Seven*: Racing from Newcastle at 1.45, 2.15, 2.45 and from Kempton at 1.30, 2.00, 2.30 and 3.00; 3.10 *Gymnastics* (Moscow News Tournament); 3.50 *Half-time* scores; 4.00 *Boxing*: WBC Heavyweight Championship (Larry Holmes vs Leroy Jones) and WBA

FILMS ON TV

Tonight the BBC is showing *They Shoot Horses, Don't They?* (BBC 2, 10.05). Sydney Pollack's effective 1969 exercise in harrowing the audience with a blow by blow account of an all-night marathon. The remainder of the week is rather like that, with the BBC putting its viewers through a bolder marathon of comedy. *The Rat Patrol* appears in a watchable 1958 musical review, *Goldwyn Follies* (today, BBC 2, 12.15), scripted, surprised, by Bert. At 10.30 on BBC 2 there is another Goldwyn period piece the 1935 *Kid Millions* with Eddie Cantor. Tonight comes *Steelhead Blues* (BBC 2, 12.01), a sardonic anti-establishment comedy characteristic of its day (1973). Nineteen-sixty-nine seems though to be the week's favourite vintage. This is the date of *Support Your Local Sheriff* (tomorrow, BBC 1, 1.55), a comedy Western with a

ings: from Wembley Conference Centre; 1.50, 2.20 and 2.50 *Boxing* from Haydock Park; 2.35 *Flat Six* (1980) Julian Wilson sums up the prospects for the season; 3.35 *Rugby League*: Wakefield Trinity v Castleford, from Belle Vue; 4.14 *University Boat Race*: Oxford v Cambridge; 5.10 *Final score*. 5.25 *News*: with Kenneth Kendall; 5.30 *Sports news*. 5.40 *Relief on Saturday*: OK? OK certainly for his fans. Acting, painting and singing: 6.10 *Wonder Woman*: The resourceful lady versus alien spacehips; 7.00 *All Creatures Great and Small*: Last episode in the series. A threat to the harmony of Skeldale House; 7.50 *The Val*: Dominican Music Show: Songs old and new. His guests are Nana Mouskouri and

people put questions usually searching ones) to Tony Bon. 8.10 *Schools Round*: Highlights (from last year's big show) at the Royal Albert Hall: Don Lusher is special guest. 7.00 *Discoveries: The Fortress on the Nile*: Hitherto unknown facts about the mysterious tomb builders of the Nubian dark age. Filmed at the ancient fortress of Qasr Ibrim in Nubia (see Personal Choice). 8.30 *News and sport*. 8.45 *Mozart: Mass in c Minor* (1.427): From Worcester Cathedral. Soloists are Margaret Price, Maria McLaughlin, Ryland Davies and

Light-Heavyweight Championship (Marvin Johnson v Eddie Gregory). 1.50 *Results service*. 5.05 *News*. 5.15 *Masters*: Another series of this enjoyable quiz game featuring a team of four. With William Franklin and Jenny Lee-Wright. 6.00 *Rees Goes Special*: The story of the three brothers who have achieved phenomenal success in the pop music world. We hear their songs, and even meet their parents. 7.00 3-2-1: Ted Rogers compares this sketches-and-quiz show. Highly enjoyable, even though the sketches are sometimes rather complicated. 8.00 *Search for a Star Special*: Dave Wolfe, winner of London Weekend Television's recent talent show, competes this music and fun

programme. His guests include two 2000 impressionsists, Faith Brown and Johnnie Walker. 9.00 *The Birmingham International Show-Jumping Championships 1980*: Main event is the deciding round of the Everest Grand Prix. 10.00 *News and sport*. 10.15 *Film: Shaft in Africa* (1971): Thriller with Richard Roundtree, who painted many a disarming smile as a native and breaking up a slave trade organization in Ethiopia. Also starring Frank Finlay. 12.00 *George Hamilton IV: The American country and western* 12.30 *am* *Encounter at Easter*: Derek Nimmo talks about the Easter story character he would like to meet. Close down at 12.40.

by David Robinson

Monday also offers a repeat of *Billy Wilder's* now *Some Like It Hot* (BBC 1, 10.15), with Jack Lemmon and Tony Curtis as fugitives from the Chicago mob, disguised as members of an all-girls band whose vocalist is Marilyn Monroe. As relief from so much jollity there is *The Sound of Music* (tomorrow, BBC 1, 11.00), still proving that nothing succeeds like old-fashioned sentiment. *The Big Trees* (Monday, BBC 1, 11.00), a 1952 environmentalism with Kirk Douglas converted from his intention to turn the Californian Redwood into lumber. *George Roy Hill's* *The Great Waldo Pepper* (Monday, BBC 1, 7.25) is a much undervalued film. Starring Robert Redford as a World War I flyer who has become an aerial stuntman, it has a real sense of the melancholy of the aftermath.

RADIO

Radio 4

6.25 am Shipping forecast. 6.30 *News*. 6.32 *Parade of Easter Music*. 6.50 *Yours Faithfully*. 7.00 *News*. 7.10 *On Your Farm*. 7.15 *Today's Papers*. 7.45 *Yours Faithfully*. 7.50 *It's a Bargain*. 8.00 *News*. 8.10 *Sport on 4*. 8.45 *Today's Papers*. 8.50 *Excuses, Excuses*. 9.00 *News*. 9.05 *Breakaway*. 9.50 *News Stand*. 10.05 *The Week in Westminster*. 10.45 *Canterbury Pilgrimage* (6). 11.00 *Pick of the Week*. 11.15 *International Assignment*. 12.00 *News*. 12.05 pm *Money Box*. 12.17 *The News Quiz*. 12.30 *Weather*. 1.00 *Any Questions?* 1.00 *News*. 2.30 *Play: Philbert's Underworld*, by Malcolm Quattrill. 3.30 *Does He Take Sugar?* 4.00 *News*. 4.02 *Changing Places* (3). 4.30 *Time For Verse*. 4.40 *Choirs of Choice*. 4.55 *Weather*. 5.55 *Weather*. 6.00 *News*. 6.15 *Desert Island Discs*. 6.25 *Stop the Week*. 6.35 *Baker's Dozen*. 8.30 *Play: Amelia*, by Valerie Barker. 9.00 *News*. 10.15 *Kaleidoscope*. 11.00 *Lighten Our Darkness*. 11.15 *Charles Dickens*: readings. 12.00 *News*. 12.15 am-12.23 *Weather*.

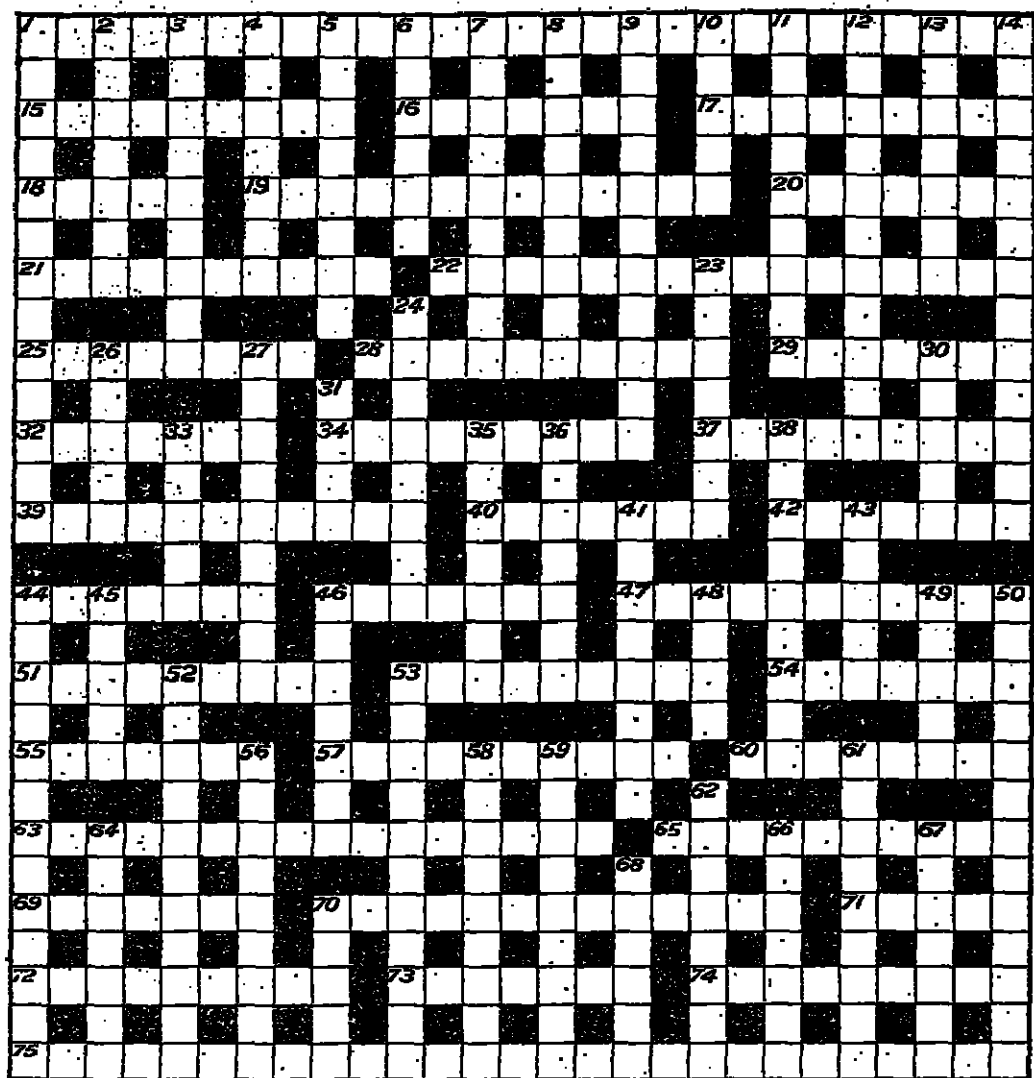
WAVELENGTHS: Radio 1 medium wave 275m/1080kHz or 235m/1033kHz. Radio 2 med wave 330m/909kHz or 433m/693kHz and 88.9 VHF. Radio 3 med wave 247m/1215kHz and 90.2 VHF. Radio 4 long wave 1500m/200kHz and 92.9 VHF. Greater London area only: med wave 720kHz/417m. LBC 261m, 97.3 VHF. Capital 194m, 95.8 VHF. World Service: med wave 548kHz (453m). BBC Radio London 260m, 94.9 VHF.

REGIONAL TV

Yorkshire

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The Times Jumbo Crossword



Name:

Address:

Prizes of £12 each will be given to the first three correct solutions opened on Monday, April 14. Entries should be addressed to The Times, Jumbo Crossword Competition, 12 Coley Street, London WC9 9XT. Winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, April 19.

ACROSS

- 1 Fourteen pounds the brace? That's effort-saving (7, 3, 5, 4, 3, 5).
- 15 Supporting an official transfer (9).
- 16 Start of play not quite nice but radiantly energetic (7).
- 17 Point three, this being of course the third (9).
- 18 A "particular" order? (5).
- 19 One of "granny's" big features (not all head) shows Red Riding-hood's dishy quality (13).
- 20 Less like William IX of Orange, more like Caliban's Isle (7).
- 21 I can supply to them race speed recorder (10).
- 22 Red flower in heaven or hell? The French question (7, 9).
- 25 Time to take a picture (8).
- 28 Played parts of campers on a tedious safari (10).
- 29 One employed in cake-making in the seraglio? (7).
- 32 Mohammedan is about to embrace the friend of Paris (7).
- 34 Cyprian as Amalthea's horn, say? (9).
- 37 Judgment summons? That's the end (4, 5).
- 39 Passerine type of snipe, might one say, once knocked about St. Andrew's (5-6).
- 40 More over (or maybe under) weight for the run home (7).

- 42 It's the tube for Philip French and both ways (7).
- 44 Wind and weather—little change (7).
- 46 One up at poker? (3, 4).
- 47 Three appearing raised by midnight haze (11).
- 51 Where we found a club is effective (9).
- 53 To best senior citizens entrants have to pass it (9).
- 54 Member in detachment has no billet for the night (7).
- 55 See mine confounding the tricky knives (7).
- 57 Beef shown by runners-up in Olympic team event (10).
- 60 Member embraces, in professional style, Lydia's aunt (8).
- 63 Far from overweight for instance Mrs. Danvers, employed by elder brethren (16).
- 65 Arnold's dead hero, T. Morse? Nonsense! (10).
- 69 Sharp's a paronomastic chap. (7).
- 70 Astral plane? (13).
- 71 One drilling Remus's brother—nothing in that (5).
- 72 Old Greek—just (9).
- 73 Heavenly body lacks a hormone perhaps (7).
- 74 Where the daily grind shows a profit? (5-4).
- 75 Threat of action initiated by Piglet's grand-father (11, 4, 2, 10).

DOWN

- 1 "Nought" includes "Cross"? Some game! (4-2-3-4).
- 3 Like Leonidas, far from verbose (7).
- 3 If in trouble with unions, ring copper—can do no harm (9).
- 4 Cardigan in its right leg twisted (7).
- 5 70 at who walks on air? (8).
- 6 Head gets by, keeping every one in (6).
- 7 Applies to the past and withdraws nothing therein (9).
- 8 Zion's court and shrine destroyed (9).
- 9 For salaried types what could be nicer (with nuts) than this date? (11).
- 10 Divinity of the upper class in Marx Mount (5).
- 11 Burns gives others as Auld Hornie, Satan and Clorine (9).
- 12 In which the rent-payer gets done by the management (7, 4).

- 13 "Nothing over sixpence" once—one or two such metamorphoses! (7).
- 14 Ape chewed up his letters initially (o then purloined?) (5, 5, 3).
- 23 But this canister aims to remain dry (7).
- 24 Keep up with the Greens in life-style—26. Sanctimonious crew mar the rest: ancient mariner (5).
- 27 Early bird raiser for instance (9).
- 30 A film planned for this market... (5).
- 31... could be an out-of-the-rut sort of p (4).
- 33 Purported to show myself a model: dusty (5).
- 35 Is the creature Jack's? That's right.
- 36 Gets red-hot hands, full of 41 perhaps.
- 38 Prove a sun may become one (9).
- 41 See 36 (8).
- 43 Tube inventor makes nothing in Ch (5).
- 44 Help 'e organized in termite problem: ruinously expensive (5, 8).
- 45 Poet's work in oriental drug set-up: 46. Help! Frank (for instance) at home one's away (7).
- 48 Cases in which some 24, as like as n (4).
- 49 Does 'e self-stockings, the basket (5).
- 50 Helps Harris do revision of a poetic: ter (10, 3).
- 52 Will this American campaigner's signal the end of the game? (7-4).
- 53 Is tense, like, disturbed by paranormal: meat (11).
- 56 Betting on the favourite being not: Bermuda rig? (5, 4).
- 58 That is the rule, oddly enough, of an: any free society (9).
- 59 Pan-scorer has permits to set up the Spanish court (5-4).
- 61 Like Blondin about to climb out of v: boat (9).
- 62 Stay mum! Avoid duty (8).
- 64 General put on hat, not one of divine: ing (7).
- 66 Smart guys on their pomes, the Yank.
- 67 Monogamous brothers demonstrated r: ings of the Berlin blockade (7).
- 68 Fortia's shone like "a good dea: naughty world" (6).
- 70 Class for actors, say (5).

Collecting

Top of the Victorian class

Conditioned by regular sightings of the Albert Memorial and by visions of endless galleries of sentimental marble, the mere mention of Victorian sculpture produces in most collectors one or two reflex actions: either a shaming of the eyes against vulgar decorative excess or a stifling of yawns at the pallid propriety of the sculptural forms.

Justified though these reactions are to much of what was going on in the 1850s, a careful inspection of the parks and squares of almost any city in the British Isles will reveal that by the end of the nineteenth century a younger group of sculptors had emerged who expressed themselves largely in bronze and produced work of imagination, movement and physical strength even in large-scale municipal monuments.

Some of the public commissions of what was dubbed by Edmund Gosse in a series of articles in 1894 as the New Sculpture are still well-known and popular works: three such examples in London are Eros and his fountain in Piccadilly Circus, the Peter Pan statue in Kensington Gardens and the recently regilded Victoria Memorial outside Buckingham Palace.

Less well-known, if they are remembered at all, are the names of the sculptors of these landmarks, even though all three artists were knighted for their contributions to turn-of-the-century England; they were respectively Sir Alfred Gilbert, M.V.C., R.A. (1854-1934), Sir George Frampton, R.A., FR.S. (1850-1928) and Thomas Brock, K.C.B., R.A. (1847-1922).

Other monuments of the period in London worth more than just a second glance include the extraordinarily powerful and "modern" Physical Energy originally conceived by C. Watts in the 1880s, and now dominating one of my favourite Sunday afternoon sections of Kensington Gardens, quite near the Round Pond.

The Victoria Embankment is littered with sculpture. Some of it is lively and interesting, notably Hamo Thornycroft's General Gordon of 1888, Frampton's Memorial to W. S. Gilbert of 1913 and Thomas Carlyle by the normally dull Edgar Boehm, who is condemned for having been the favourite sculptor of Queen Victoria, who had notoriously bad taste in sculpture.

Outside London interesting

examples can be found as far afield as the tiny parish church of Kippin near Strilanz (two amazing polychrome pieces by Alfred Gilbert) and Calcutta, where Frampton's commissioned for an imposing memorial to the Empress Victoria.

Alfred Drury's Circe looks well outside Leeds City Art Gallery, Paul Montford's symbolic groups decorating the Kelvin Bridge in Glasgow are impressive and Onslow Ford's Shelley Memorial at University College, Oxford, is marvelous.

To return again to the man who outlines them all, two works by Alfred Gilbert should not be missed: The Clarence Memorial at Windsor and the Victoria Memorial in Winchester, both of which present an incredible wealth of sinuous decorative detail.

It makes art historical sense for at least two reasons to call Alfred Gilbert the Donatello of the Victorian period. First, like his Renaissance mentor, he led a return from monumental marble statuary to a concern for intimate study of the human form in the bronze statue. Secondly, Gilbert favoured, like Donatello, the technically complex *cire per-*



Sir Thomas Brock's bronze bust of Lord Leighton (1892).

due (lost wax) method of casting bronze. This resulted in a small edition of bronzes all of which maintained the sensitivity and immediacy of the original clay or wax model by the sculptor.

Anyway, Gilbert himself acknowledged a clear debt to the fifteenth century sculptors of Florence where he studied in the late 1870s, a debt that was most clearly expressed in his Perseus Arming of 1882. The

exhibition of this bronze at the Grosvenor Gallery persuaded the influential president of the Royal Academy, Frederick Leighton, to commission from Gilbert his Icarus of 1884.

Perhaps the most distinguished quality of Icarus is the expressiveness of the form when looked at from any angle; the youth also has an androgynous character, which helped to make the work as popular as it is now.

Sir W. Hamo Thornycroft (1850-1925) was considered by many contemporaries to be almost as pioneering as Gilbert. His early exhibits at the Royal Academy are still attractive to collectors, particularly Artemis of 1880, Tenebris of 1881 and the Mower of 1884.

The long-lived Thomas Brock produced many excellent portrait busts and even managed to bring a certain softness to that normally severe olympian, Lord Leighton.

Almost the only Victorian sculptor of an earlier generation who strikes a modern chord of interest is the sadly neglected Alfred Stevens, whose monument to the Duke of Wellington in St Paul's Cathedral is one of the masterpieces of English sculpture of all ages.

The massive allegorical supporting groups have a uniquely Victorian character. The original two-foot-high models for Truth and Concord were cast in bronze and Icarus and other collectors have always wanted to own one of these cases; I fear, they are still lurking in forgotten corners of Victorian country houses.

As yet there are only half a dozen or so serious collectors in England of New Sculpture and the field is wide open to new collectors. However, as many of the bronzes are appealing in a purely decorative sense they are often bought purely for size and decorative value rather than artistic significance and are therefore not always as cheap as might be expected from the limited expert interest.

This was illustrated at a recent sale at Sotheby's, Belgrave, at which a polychrome figure of a knight by the later and relatively unknown sculptor Gilbert Bayes sold for several thousand pounds against an estimate in the hundreds. However, there are some very good members of the group like Bayes whose work is usually of a high standard

and can often be bought for £300-£700.

Those names not mentioned who are watching for include Allen, William Francis Derwent-Wood, Jenkins, Goscombe John, Legros, Bertram, Enall, Frederick Pomeroy, Rein-Dick, Reynolds-Stevens, Charles John MacCallan, Albert Toft and Regius fax-Weiss.

Apart from my own at 9 Glean Place, Baginbun, the only other available stock of this era are the Armistice Galleries in Arundel Street, Sussex, the Briny in Somerset and Art Society at 148 N. Street, W1. However other general dealers as specialists in other sculpture (see the Rein and Cyril Humphries) have pieces in stock. I also a number of private in this field such as Katz and Tony Roth.

Jeremy C

The author is an anti-

Good Food

Dark blue appetizers

"Oxbridge" is an expression that is all very well to denote a system of university organization, or simply a state of mind. But if public restaurants are any guide—and not many university people, whether students or dons, nowadays seem inclined to eat all their meals in college—there is no Oxbridge school of cookery. Nor would there be much point in arranging a sauce-boat race between the chefs of Isis and Cam, with the tally of restaurants in the current *Good Food Guide* reading Oxford 10, Cambridge 1.

It has to be conceded that

Oxford has several unfair advantages: a formidable tourist trade, a motor industry whose recent belt-tightening must still leave room for the occasional export lunch, and a catering department in the local Poly whose Brilliant Savarin Society dinners outdo most in elegance and male chauvinism alike.

It is all very different from the Oxford of a quarter-century ago, when Kenneth Bell's Elizabeth Restaurant had just begun to reintroduce Oxonians to serious eating and drinking, and Chambolle Les Amouresses '37 could be had for 27 shill-

ings. The Elizabeth survives, under Bell's successor Antonio Lopez, but has been overtaken in most critics' esteem by Raymond and Jenny Blanc's Les Quat Saisons, which has had an *amus mirabilis* in the restaurant guide. This is a generous moment for a chef, however self-critical, with pressures and expectations mounting simultaneously, and a standing temptation to let prices follow in their trail.

One or two murmurs on these lines are in fact already to be heard. "One feels crowded now, and though M. Blanc came round at the end, the initial reception was brisk"; "the wine list has deteriorated in balance and value"; and even "it is of pity that we cannot have French food in this country at French prices—think what culinary delights the 100fr menu holds out to the traveller across the Channel". But this is in the context of highly achieved dishes, especially fish: perhaps sea bass in red wine (£6.50) or turbot fillets "in a creamy vermouth sauce with underones sharpness prevented, or the rich and meaty petit pain truffe sauce, and still find room at the end for the French and Swiss cheeses (M. Blanc hails originally from Besancon) or the sorbet cassis, or even—with two spoons, perhaps—the specialty mousse glacée praline, a nutty confection coated with a caramel sauce. Nor can there be many vegetable dishes to be found in Britain better than the seasonal "gâteau" of Jerusalem artichokes with an asparagus version of sauce verte—a masterpiece of unctuous fragility.

At a rung of price and quality somewhat lower than Les Quat Saisons—and on their good days the Elizabeth and La Sorbonne, it is used to be difficult in Oxford to find anything but Italian places. These are admirable in their own way, especially La Cantina di Capri perhaps, but there was obviously room for a genre of medium-priced, Francophile, if not actually French, restaurant, now represented by Michel Sadones' Clements and Philip Wren's Wrens.

Clements lies in the parish of Magdalen Bridge on the London road. "The waiters have familiar faces," reports a recent visitor, "for they go the rounds in this city." But the food has touches of originality, and a certain consistency, derived perhaps from a well-organized menu that allows the chef, Richard Sarney, to concentrate on main courses such as his quenelles de saumon sauce Nantua (£3.80) and Côte de boeuf aux trois sauces, and to prepare cold hors d'oeuvre and sweets at other times of day. A conservative wine-lover spending £11.60 on his Ch Bravery '73 had doubts about the free-hand use of garlic, "from the point of view of a squeamish English stomach tastes", but otherwise content seems general, and bills controllable to £10 a head.

Philip Wren began his career as an architect and just as well, for the old building he now occupies, in a street that forms a kind of moat on the western side of the St Ebbe's shopping precinct, needed structural strengthening to put it mildly. But the result is a good example of the adage that the most pleasing restaurants depend on the least capital. It is broken up into interlocking chambers, and sparsely furnished with cold storage strategically placed as edible decorations.

The sweets, when tried, were not in fact the place's best feature—but no matter, for the cheeses would have graced any restaurant in Oxford, and the owner's advice about which French rarity was at its peak proved sound. John Geoghegan's four-course set menu, served invitingly, especially to a fish-lover, and always begins with a tureen of potage. A leek soup, creamy and not too smooth, converted a previously convinced leek-hater, and everything about the course—the tureen on the table, the chaste white china bowls—tends to put the visitor in a good mood that can survive a certain dryness in the rouget en papillote or a certain thickness in the sauce for skewered monk-fish. At a test meal, pot-au-feu de langue de boeuf made an imaginative main course, with confit d'oignons among the side-dishes, and stuffed shoulder of lamb was both pink and tender. Wines are sensibly chosen, and though the whites are listed without vintage, the house

label "Jabberwocky" was less minims than might have been expected. A sound young Rhône costs £5 or so, and at this place too £10 a head is about the minimum.

Chinese and Indian restaurants come and go, in Oxford as elsewhere. None has quite the individuality combined with the economy of the Indonesian Munchy Munchy, already described in this column (March 22). But a recently arrived Chinese place that looks neat and inviting is Tong San in suburban Botley, an offshoot of the Opium Den in Oxford itself. It is easily reached from the Botley exit from the Oxford by-pass (then look for the shopping precinct car park). Dishes approved include salted king prawns in garlic dressing, spare ribs in pepper and garlic, prawns in satay sauce, and for main course perhaps stir-fried chicken in garlic and ginger (£1.95), duck in plum sauce, chicken pieces with prawn stuffing (£2.25), or jar jar, a chilli-hot pork dish strongly flavoured with *Leung new fun* ("five fragrances").

At a test lunch, though, toffee fingers were denied on the grounds that apples had failed to arrive—we did think the waiters could have interrupted the card game they were playing at the back of the restaurant long enough to buy a couple at the greengrocer next door.

Details: Les Quat Saisons, 272 Banbury Road, Tel. Oxford (0865) 53540. Closed Sunday; Monday, public holidays; April 8. Must book. Meals: 12.15-2.15, 7.15-10. A la carte meal with wine about £15.

Clements, 37 St Clements, Tel. Oxford (0865) 41431. Closed Wednesday, Mass book dinner. Meals: 12.15-2.15, 7.30-11. Table d'hôte Sunday lunch £4.80. A la carte meal with wine about £9.40.

Wrens, 29 Castle Street, Tel. Oxford (0865) 42944. Closed Monday, Saturday lunch. Meals: 12.20, 7-11. Table d'hôte lunch from £3.25; table d'hôte dinner £7.50.

Tong San, 20 The Square, West Way, Botley, Tel. Oxford (0865) 48230. Open noon-2.30 (12-30 Sunday), 6-midnight. Table d'hôte from £3.70. A la carte meal about £5.

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All costs must rise I know, but sometimes I think I am still living in the age of the half crown farmer's ordinary lunch when I look at the price of plants. If inflation is pinching, as it is for most of us, the answer is to grow more plants from seed—trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants, rock plants and even house plants.

Let us look first at herbaceous plants as these should be sowing in the next few weeks. As I have often remarked, if one wishes to fill an empty border, plant beds in a new garden, or replace some of our herbaceous plants we are tired of, it pays to gang up with one or two friends, buy a collection of seeds and share the cost, the work of raising the young plants and of course, to share out the resulting plants.

It is not generally appreciated that many herbaceous plants reproduce themselves very well from seed.

Of course there are, in some cases, poor forms, unattractive colour shades which will be discarded but with, for example, lupins, delphiniums, geums, oriental poppies, gailardias, doricums, dictamnus (the burning bush), erigerons, hollyhocks, physalis and many more the progeny will be very attractive. The *Sidalcea* hybrids in shades of pink and red, *Scabiosa caucasica* and for moist shady positions such perennials as *Pulsatilla* hybrids, and *P. florindae* yellow, are all easily raised from seed. Suttons, I see offer a special mixture of hardy primula species for rock gardens.

Other rock garden plants we may raise from seed include sun roses, available in a mixture of helianthemum species, which are best sown now under glass as indeed are the majority of the plants mentioned above. They do not need much heat, if any at this time of year, and may be sown in a cold frame or under cloches.

The pasque flower *Anemone pulsatilla* of the catalogues but correctly *Pulsatilla vulgaris* is easy to raise from seed and interesting variations in colour from purple to red may occur.

Gardening

Trimming along the borders

Two perennial dwarf candytufts *Iberis gibraltarica* and *I. sempervirens* are well worth growing, especially for a rather dry spot as for example on top of a retaining wall. If you like a gamely try sowing a packet of *Erysimum alpinum*, a cheerful little rock plant with rosy-mauve flowers. It would only grow for me at Hurdwode in Chilterns in an eight foot stone wall. How the seeds got there I never really knew yet I have seen gardens where it is almost a weed in gaps between crazy paving.

Personally I like sowing mixtures of various kinds and these are very good for propagating the best forms vegetatively by cuttings or divisions.

The dwarf plants, a mixture of *Dianthus alpinus* the semi double mixtures of *aurelia* usually give some real gems worth propagating as do the *Primula denticalata* hybrids.

When we come to raising shrubs from seed we are also taking a gamble and it may take much longer to find out if we have produced any winners or merely a number of rather inferior types. But, if one is young enough and has a fairly large garden, or if one's children or friends have empty spaces to fill I still think it worth while to raise some shrubs from seed. The dwarf shrubs are especially easy to give a worth while range of colours and flower size from yellow to cream, pink, apricot and red.

Genistas and cytisus, *Wisteria sinensis*, camellias may be grown from seed. So too may many species of *gaultheria*, some of course suitable for pot plants like *E. globularis* and *E. ciliolata* but others such as *E. niphophila* and *E. pauciflora* are good hardy species. If I had the room and needed a good boundary planting, I would raise a batch of the two last named species. Kept trimmed they make a good low screen and the foliage is especially bought by florists in the winter.

It is not always realised that many house plants may be raised from seed. Cacti and other succulents are easy to grow and the "living stones" mixture of *Lithops* species from Dobbies is particularly interesting especially for youngsters. These conical little plants have thick oval leaves and resemble the stones they grow among in South Africa. The dwarf date palm *Phoenix roebelinii*, the white arm lilies *Zantedeschia*

aethiopica, philodendron *aethiopicum*, the rubber plants and ferns may all be raised from seed in the home.

The various types of asparagus are grown from seed. I popular is *Asparagus* with long green feathery foliage, excellent in basket. But there are *inversii* which has long shaped fronds and *A. plumosus* with flat fronds. Plants which are in a greenhouse, but will be brought into the garden when they flower and which may from seed include *Sirex ginae*, the bird of flower, *Streptocarpus*, *capensis* with lovely p flowers, and *Spermatocaulis* with white flower. Another interesting plant is the *pomegranate*, *Punica* "Nana" with red flow small red fruits. The *di* sicutis produce gaily fruits in autumn as winter cherry *Solanum castrum*. Suttons, Dolwins and Thompson's offer a wide selection seeds.

Ro

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Travel

Timeless Tuscany: the delightful truth

iting of Tuscany, or a holiday there for or, the temptation is at length on the attractions of Pisa or upable treasures of It is a temptation I st here, for although tour of the region to both cities, I feel id be well enough require no further dation or description

teenth century ramparts. Within the walls, preserved by them from modern spoliation, are fine medieval houses, a Roman amphitheatre and splendid churches. A place to be lingered over.

Having dutifully lingered, I took the Fiat along highway 435 to Pescia, Montecatini Terme—quite possibly the best known of Italy's spa- and to Pistoia, a town which boasts several attractive church buildings. It also, I discovered, gave its name to the pistol, having in medieval times been a centre for metalworking and manufacture. (The "pistol" started life as a dagger, but with the advent of firearms the name became synonymous with a small hand gun.)

My destination was, of course, Florence, for though I said at the start that one ought not to dwell upon the city's treasures, it is surely not possible to visit Tuscany without at least passing through. Missing out Florence would be like visiting the Tower of London and not bothering to see the Crown Jewels—though for all I know people do just that!

In the event, it turned out to be a far easier exercise—driving in Florence, that is. The city was designed to be explored on foot, to be admired as one strolled around it. The idea of peering hastily at its buildings and statues, as one jerks from one traffic jam to another is quite ridiculous. Many parts of the city are, in any case, pedestrian areas and combined with an impenetrable one-way system serve to discourage drivers.

I must confess that until this particular visit, and Florence apart, did not know Tuscany at all. For one, I was using a map, an assortment of travel book descriptions, and the opinions of friends who urged me to visit this or that

favourite place. The bald description of Tuscany as "a mountainous region covering over fourteen thousand square miles of Italy, lying between the Tyrrhenian coast and the Apennine mountains", did nothing to prepare me for its mellow beauty, for the small towns and villages clinging to its hillsides and for the atmosphere I found in them. I know well the effect that Italy has on many British visitors, persuading them to return time and time again, to savour its special atmosphere, its way of life. Timeless Tuscany is the epitome of such attraction, a land through which one should travel at ease and make each journey one of delightful exploration.

South from Florence I was driving through Chianti country. Italy's most famous wine is grown in this region, but only that from the district lying between Florence and Siena is entitled to call itself "Chianti Classico", and this I felt obliged to sample—purely for the purposes of research, you understand. Though the ones I made at the time are difficult to decipher, I seem to have concluded that the wine with the black cockerel trademark "Gallo Nero" had the edge over "Grappolo" and "Pulito".

On the subject of wine, incidentally, I discovered a gem of a tale at Montefiascone, on the edge of lake Bolsena, far to the south of Tuscany. In the church there is the tomb of Bishop Fugger of Augsburg who, according to legend, sent his servant ahead of him when making pastoral journeys. The servant's task was to mark with "est" those hostilities that he feared. At Montefiascone, the wine proved to be so good that the servant wrote "est est est". The Bishop took his recommen-

dation to heart—and died of over-indulgence. True or not, the local wine is called "Est est est".

The drive through Chianti was to take me to Siena, although I diverted off the main route in order to visit San Gimignano, which is reckoned by many experts to be the best preserved of all medieval towns. A delight to the eye, as indeed Siena turned out to be. My visit coincided with the day of the Corsa del Palio, the famous horse race round the main square. It was a spectacle I had eagerly anticipated, but I was robbed of it because bad weather caused a postponement. The saddest sight I recall from my entire journey was the Campa in pouring rain, filled with squelching Italians in transparent plastic macs all waiting for the miracle that might save the race that day. I did see it, however, a day or two later—on a television sports programme which combined it with tennis from Wimbledon. Not the same thing at all.

Like other medieval cities in Tuscany, Siena protects itself from the internal combustion engine, keeping all vehicles out of its centre. It is a point to bear in mind when on a motoring holiday, for you have to be constantly prepared to park your vehicle and do a lot of walking within towns large or small.

A feeling for history, and an eye for the beauty of its rolling landscape, are what you need to take with you on a holiday in Tuscany. Combine that with the relative freedom that self-drive cars provide, and you have the ingredients for an excellent holiday. Beautiful countryside, interesting towns and cities, good wine and excellent food. And, apart from the main cities like Flor-

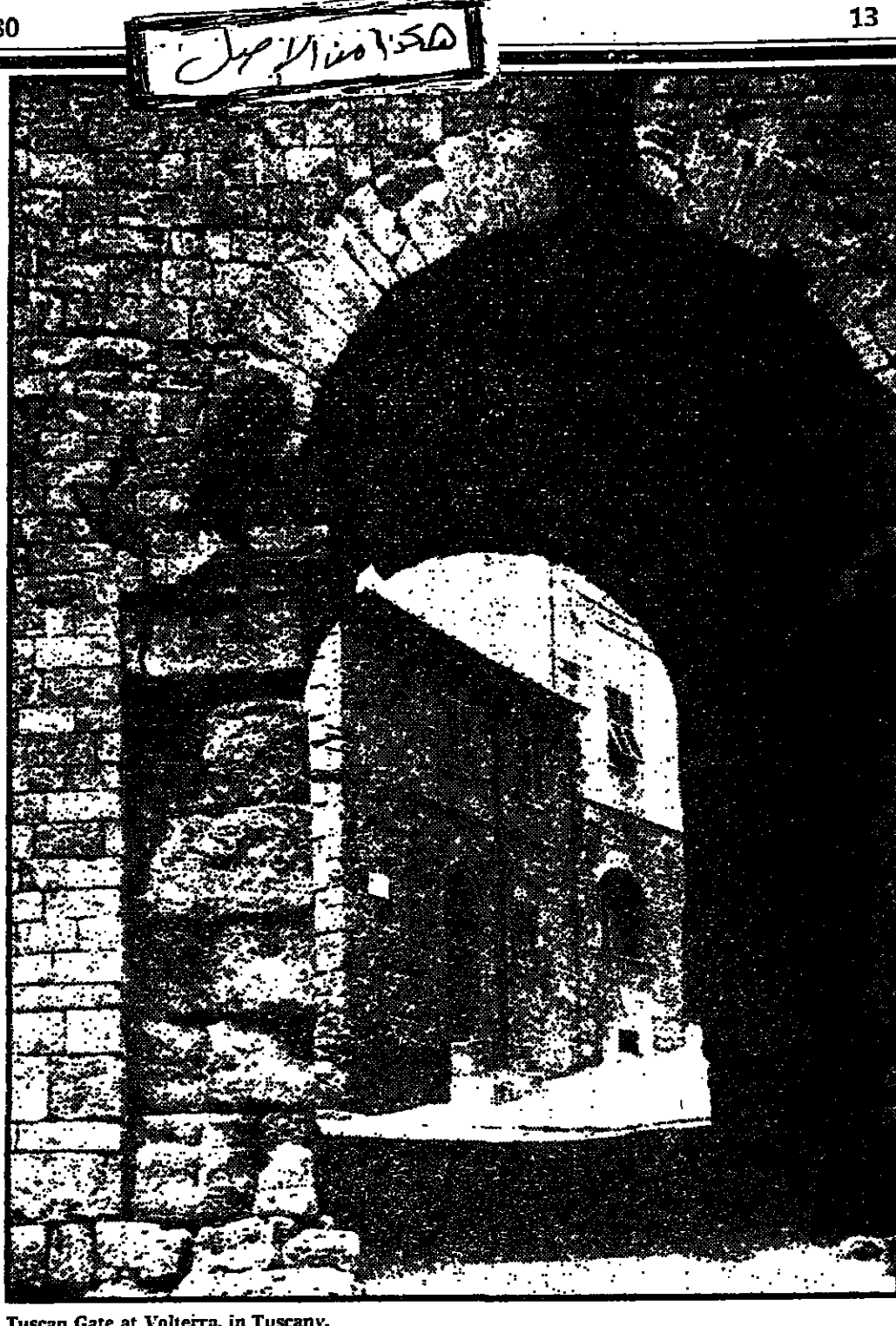
ence or Pisa or Siena, you may be sure of getting accommodated even in high summer. And it will be relatively inexpensive in the smaller towns, too.

I brought back a clutch of pleasant memories from Tuscany. I found a small town which claims to be the birthplace of Pontius Pilate, and in a church in Viterbo heard how Prince Henry of Cornwall was murdered at the altar by the de Montfort brothers to avenge the death of their father Simon at the Battle of Evesham. An incongruous geographical combination, that, the Vale of Evesham and the rolling hills of Tuscany.

As for the practical details of the fly-and-drive holiday, you may, of course put it together yourself, buying the most economical return ticket to Pisa and hiring a car through any of the various companies which operate in the region. Or you may have the holiday ready made for you by companies like CIT, which I mentioned earlier. Although surcharges will no doubt increase the original price, the CIT brochure lists £185 per person this summer as the cost of a two-week holiday—that is, the return flight Gatwick-Pisa and the hire of a Fiat 127 if two people travel together. If three or four people share the car, the individual costs drop to £154 or £139.

A travel agent should have information, or you could obtain the CIT brochure from the company at 255 High Street, Croydon CR9 1LL, or 10, Charles II Street, London SW1Y 4AB.

John Carter



Tuscan Gate at Volterra, in Tuscany.

Drink

Vintage trip

asing number of rs are being fea- ravel agents. These ps most enjoyable icted to short trips or less, for, except uly dedicated, one ould win a bottle of like others; many st famous vineyard not otherwise espe- rousque or near urist attractions. That include two ic meals a day, ss, and involve, in ch, travel, often in a heat, are neither ideal for family holi- nd remember a few y one or two good or dinners and be tk questions from impetent to answer, our guide, should is of the wine lover trip of this kind.

commodation tends ly booked at vintage he areas; through- many installations for holidays while tee staff are prepar- a vintage, so this is al time to arrange a In June and July, grapes are ripening, ards are beautiful; vintage, when the every colour from imson, they are spec- ular should not feel any "vintage cele- vintaging is serious the parties that cele- end of picking are ricted to those volved. Pageants and s, however, such as one at Lissimass, or mid-September, or a World Wine Fair, 16 this year, are rish attractions and ally widely publicized Magazine, 16 Black ne, London, EC4, has most of these in its diary.

game and sparkling ablishments are so that a visit to e of this kind can be sting holiday excur- al about two hours: al guides are often and, in Champagne, s have small, electri- nvenient for people or walk much. But do at (cellars of this usually really cold) sensible shoes; un- it can be naturally

Pamela Vandyke Price

Chess

Trollope's opinion of the great game

Participation in or presence at important chess events represents for me the very stuff of life. The weeks spent in a chess milieu away from all the troubles and trials of a workaday world, such as an insistent reality that the progress of time is measured not in days but in accordance with the number of the round if it is a tournament or the number of the game if it is a match. Apropos of which would editors, both sub or otherwise, please note that a game is not a match nor vice versa, that a match is composed of games and that one plays games in a tournament and not matches.

There is one continually recurring drawback to all these joys. That is the letdown feeling and the drab anti-climax when such events end and one returns to the humdrum existence of everyday life away from the chessboard. My return from controlling the quarterfinal Candidates match at Valsby between Korchnoi and Petrosian was just such a decline into the grey areas of ordinary life.

But I was much heartened to find waiting for me a clutch of letters from readers who, with one and a half exceptions, fervently supported my claim that chess is an art and as such worthy of artistic treatment rather than hold the arid technical viewpoint entertained by those chess journalists who are content with riding on a rocking-horse because they fear to ride on Pegasus.

The one exception was that of a reader who wrote that it was high time I was put out to grass and who extolled a chess journalist of the type referred to in the previous paragraph, one whose articles were so wooden that they creaked as

much as the chair in the Bagman's story in Pickwick Papers. The half exception came from someone who thought chess was not an art but a piece of artistry; a disquisition with difference as far as I am concerned. So laudatory were the other letters that I was not sure whether the redness of my face represented the blushes of modesty or the pangs of indignation. One fellow chess journalist even wrote so idly as to refer to my style as Eliot's and I would have quoted from his amusing letter were it not for the regrettable fact that what Charles Lamb could have got away with I cannot do in these stately columns.

However, I can quote a posting card from Piers Burton Page, a BBC radio producer who specializes in the arts. He simply wrote: "Three hours a day will produce as much as a man ought to write. (Trollope, Autobiography, Vol. 15). Keep them as they are."

Well, I shall endeavour to do so, all the more because Trollope himself was a keen and knowledgeable chess player. Let me hasten to add that Trollope was well before my time, about 100 years in fact, and that my only acquaintance or link with Victorian novelists came some 50 years ago when, as a young undergraduate, I played against Tolstoy's friend and translator, Trollope. Trollope who wrote that "Croquet is a pretty game out of doors, and chess is delightful in a drawing room."

He knew all about Philidor too and in *Barchester Towers* wrote: "The signora did not love at all, but she was up to every move on the board. It was Philidor pitted against a schoolboy." He must have been fond of this metaphor since I seem to remember that, in contrasting an innocent and hapless cleric with the redoubtable Mrs. Proudie, he wrote: "It was Philidor to a board player."

I wonder what Philidor would have thought of the games of the Korchnoi-Petrosian match. They were exciting but not, I think, of high quality. Neither player was in form and Korchnoi owed his victory partly to his wonderful ingenuity and resource when in trouble and partly because Petrosian regularly weakened markedly during the fifth hour of play.

I have noticed this deterioration in Petrosian's staying power over the last six years. Great player though he is he cannot afford such a loss of stamina against such a redoubtable opponent as the dynamic and durable Korchnoi. The loser sought to explain away his defeat by leaving a number of charges against me as arbiter. To which I have to say it would have been well for Petrosian had he been as inventive at the board as he was away from it.

Perhaps he was seeking to disguise from himself the extent of his own deterioration. But in all probability he had an even more imperative reason for his desperate attempts to place the blame away from himself. The last time he lost a match against Korchnoi was in 1977.

On his return to Moscow he was in disgrace and immediately lost the editorship of the Russian chess weekly 64. If he can persuade the Soviet rulers that he was not to blame for this second defeat then perhaps nothing will be taken from him.

Meanwhile, here is the ninth and last game of the match:

1. P-QB4 P-K3 2. P-K3 B-K2 3. N-K4 P-Q3 4. P-Q3 B-K2 5. P-Q3 B-K2 6. P-Q3 B-K2 7. P-Q3 B-K2 8. P-Q3 B-K2 9. P-Q3 B-K2 10. P-Q3 B-K2 11. P-Q3 B-K2 12. P-Q3 B-K2 13. P-Q3 B-K2 14. P-Q3 B-K2 15. P-Q3 B-K2 16. P-Q3 B-K2 17. P-Q3 B-K2 18. P-Q3 B-K2 19. P-Q3 B-K2 20. P-Q3 B-K2 21. P-Q3 B-K2 22. P-Q3 B-K2 23. P-Q3 B-K2 24. P-Q3 B-K2 25. P-Q3 B-K2 26. P-Q3 B-K2 27. P-Q3 B-K2 28. P-Q3 B-K2 29. P-Q3 B-K2 30. P-Q3 B-K2 31. P-Q3 B-K2 32. P-Q3 B-K2 33. P-Q3 B-K2 34. P-Q3 B-K2 35. P-Q3 B-K2 36. P-Q3 B-K2 37. P-Q3 B-K2 38. P-Q3 B-K2 39. P-Q3 B-K2 40. P-Q3 B-K2 41. P-Q3 B-K2 42. P-Q3 B-K2 43. P-Q3 B-K2 44. P-Q3 B-K2 45. P-Q3 B-K2 46. P-Q3 B-K2 47. P-Q3 B-K2 48. P-Q3 B-K2 49. P-Q3 B-K2 50. P-Q3 B-K2 51. P-Q3 B-K2 52. P-Q3 B-K2 53. P-Q3 B-K2 54. P-Q3 B-K2 55. P-Q3 B-K2 56. P-Q3 B-K2 57. P-Q3 B-K2 58. P-Q3 B-K2 59. P-Q3 B-K2 60. P-Q3 B-K2 61. P-Q3 B-K2 62. P-Q3 B-K2 63. P-Q3 B-K2 64. P-Q3 B-K2 65. P-Q3 B-K2 66. P-Q3 B-K2 67. P-Q3 B-K2 68. P-Q3 B-K2 69. P-Q3 B-K2 70. P-Q3 B-K2 71. P-Q3 B-K2 72. 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Fred Emery

The shock and the challenge of Bristol

The Prime Minister and her closest Cabinet colleagues would, but for Bristol, have got away with wishing themselves a Happy Easter recess. Their sudden upturn in political fortune from the near defeat at the Southern East-election three weeks ago had been a minor miracle. The Budget had been received more warmly, in an opinion poll sample, than Ministers dared hope, even if Mr J. Enoch Powell characteristically pronounced the Chancellor's battle to cut spending already lost.

The end of the steel strike without Government surrender on cash limits was acclaimed a famous victory, however pyrrhic. The refusal of some BL car workers to strike was taken as further heartening evidence of that change in public attitudes towards accepting the reality preached by Sir Keith Joseph and Mr Thatcher.

The check list of success seemed to get longer the more it was examined. There was the virtual free ride the Government enjoyed from a distracted Opposition when Mr Whitelaw pleaded "trust me" over telephone-tapping-as-usual, and in the further tightening of curbs on secondary industrial action.

Indeed, the Government almost blatantly savoured its little needs to worry about the feeling of trade union leaders these days. At the very moment that Mr Arthur Scargill, enfant terrible of the

miners' flying pickets, was announcing to a Commons committee his never doubted preparedness for martyrdom in defiance of the Employment Bill, the Government was casually tabling its new clause tightening the Bill's curbs.

Some of these successes were the product of chance or parliamentary management carefully designed to divert protest. Under this head might be included the Defence White Paper, the postponement of the EEC summit and even the receding of a Conservative backbench mini-revolt over the reduction, in real terms, of child benefit.

All in all, Conservatives could congratulate themselves that they had escaped the clutches of winter. Sir Keith Joseph might remind anyone listening that "difficult conditions are on the way" but any Conservative MP—if by no means all ministers—felt they had got the country's measure for the moment. If there was a bit of fuss over cutting payments to the unemployed, well, it was said, the vast majority had jobs, and would not worry. It was too good to last.

The riot of young blacks against the police at Bristol had an immediately shattering effect on most politicians.

This was partly because of true British complacency that it cannot happen here; but mostly because no one at Westminster would have even short-listed Bristol as the potential

powder keg which many, afterwards, said it had long been.

The shock, especially among Conservatives, at the police withdrawal was intense. It reflected that classic Tory commitment to the sanctity of property almost above all else. It was only Mr Whitelaw who dared commend the Avon Chief Constable for emerging without loss of life and serious injury; that, he suggested in the Commons, must go some way to justifying the decision he took.

Had such avoidance of fatality incidentally, been brought off by police in an American city it would have been hailed as a triumph. To my recollection, it has happened there only once, the night the power failed in New York City in 1977, and the police managed to refrain from shooting looters.

Others will analyse the local causes of Bristol problems. But one central political consequence of the eruption of violence could be to strengthen the hand of the Cabinet "wets" as they have been derided. A couple of them last week—and they seem to be a majority inside the Cabinet—confided separately, in dismissing the easy plaudits for the Budget, their intensifying concern for the social consequences of the Government's economic policies.

They thought the next 13 months of the Government's very difficult economic passage would unleash social strains



Rioting in Bristol: a shock for the Government.

which would be bound to force a change of course on the Prime Minister, however obstinate and buoyed up with determination she might now seem. Neither of them guessed which strains might show first; but both worried that there must be a threshold for unemployment which was crossed only at peril; neither, a day before Bristol, mooted problems with youths in the black community.

Now, admittedly, the straight line cause and effect argument between the Bristol looters and the unemployment rate is a dubious one. Far more likely is the detonator is the reciprocal hostility between police and black youths. It is no good

ministers pretending "this was not in any sense a race riot" when there is, as Mr Merlyn Rees put it, "particular needle" between West Indian youth and the police.

Everyone involved and in touch with community relations knows this to be so, and it is the job of the police to see that it is not exacerbated. Perhaps the too rapid recruitment of new young men and women into the police has not helped.

But the persistent and increasing above-average unemployment of black and coloured youth is a fact that successive governments have failed to tackle with sufficient energy.

The police ought not to be

asked to bear the burden of that despair. Special anti-riot squads perhaps have their place in preventing disorders getting so out of hand. But the trouble with exacting public spending priorities is that governments can get them badly wrong.

Spending more on law and order measures while professing there is not enough money for special treatment for the unemployed is to invite trouble. It may already be too late. But all the Cabinet have a challenge to prevent Bristol becoming "the first of many to come," as Mr Eddison Griffiths, the Conservative MP who speaks for the Police Federation, said he feared it could be.

Sir Winston Churchill: the unhampered vision

His presence provided the party with an exalted and non-partisan leader who provided it with a broad, protective umbrella

On the afternoon of April 5, 1955, 25 years ago today, Sir Winston Churchill drove to Buckingham Palace to tender his resignation as Prime Minister. Some have since maintained that Churchill was "a-ga" or at least hopelessly out of touch during his last years at Number 10. Lord Moran, his doctor, saw these years as a "struggle for survival". After three years researching the years 1951-55, however, it is my belief that Churchill has some claim to be thought the most considerable of Britain's post-war prime ministers.

A prime minister makes his impact on public affairs in three main ways, and it is these that Churchill's contribution during 1951-55 should be judged: as a coordinator of administration and policy, as a party leader and as a leader of the nation.

Churchill was least successful in the first area. However, after some initial grinding the government machine adopted itself to Churchill's unusual style after the clockwork efficiency of Clement Attlee, and worked well under him. There were complaints that he paid insufficient attention to domestic problems, that in defence affairs he preferred his personal predilections to the carefully considered policies of his expert advisers, and that his thoughts on foreign policy were often at variance with those of the Foreign Secretary, Anthony Eden.

But his contribution to domestic policy was far from negligible. Once he had appointed a minister he left him a free hand, in marked contrast to many of his successors, who attempted to over-centralize and over-entangle. He was impartial, backing a minister if he felt it necessary regardless of his personal feelings about him. His presence provided a

stable environment in which ministers were free, untroubled by rivalries, to carry out the pledges outlined in the party manifesto.

The policy of deliberate conciliation towards the unions, executed by Sir Walter Monckton at Churchill's express instruction, had much to commend it at the time, building up a solid basis of trust between the unions and the Conservative Party which Churchill's successors could have used as a useful starting point for discussions on union reform.

Under Churchill, the figure for public expenditure as a percentage of gross domestic product actually fell, from 39.4 per cent in 1951 to 35 per cent in 1955, a unique achievement. Much of this saving was due to the final elimination of wartime controls and rationing, a process Churchill did much to boost.

His contribution as party leader was far more significant than that allowed him at the time. Critics belittled his role because he played only a small part in the reformulation of party policy during 1951-55, instigated chiefly by Rab Butler, or the restructuring of the party's organization, for which Sir David Maxwell Fyfe and Lord Woolton were mainly responsible. Others felt he lacked the common touch or that they needed a party leader who would perform well on television.

But Churchill's presence provided the party with an exalted and non-partisan leader who



A jaunty Sir Winston leaves No 10 after resigning as Prime Minister in 1955.

provided a broad and protective umbrella under which the party could adapt itself to the

problems of being in power. By his appointments in 1951, and by his continual moderating

influence, Churchill personally ensured that the representatives of empirical and pragmatic Conservatism continued to hold the senior posts in the party, a position they were to hold for the next 25 years.

Churchill's greatest success came in his role as nation's leader, and it is in this capacity that he rises far above any other post-war prime minister. The job is not just to be the head of an efficient machine, as Clement Attlee and Mr Harold Macmillan often became. Nor is it merely to foster the interests of his own party, an end with which Sir Harold Wilson and Mr James Callaghan all too frequently became preoccupied. He has a greater responsibility: to lead, inspire and unite his countrymen.

In Parliament Churchill was a great unifying force who helped prevent the emergence of personal antipathies between parties and who elevated the party into a higher plane of politics. He was indeed regarded, to an extent, as above party politics, which accounts for Labour forgiving his occasional gaffes. He pleaded for limits to the extent to which party strife intruded into the scrutiny of national problems, because "it is not readily possible to assume that one . . . mass of voters possess, all the virtues and all the wisdom, and the other lot are dupes and fools".

His vision was unhampered by the struggle for personal gain which so limited the horizons of his contemporaries. He saw all too clearly the way in-

dividual liberty would be eroded not only in the totalitarian countries of the post-war world. He was fully awake to the danger from the Soviet Union, especially after the advent of nuclear weapons, and the need to maintain vigilant defence.

Yet, at the same time, he anticipated the utter futility of the Cold War, in material and moral terms, and the consequent need to seek an accord, a partial opening of the iron curtains of distrust, but from a position of strength. The irony was that in his advanced years he lacked the strength to push his plans through to their logical conclusion, as he also failed to fulfil the potential of his early post-war statements on the need to press for greater unity in Europe. This last was his, and the government's, major omission.

Throughout his career, Churchill was an imperfect individual, prone to making mistakes; and this was clearly still the case in his last years in politics. But this should be viewed against his considerable achievement. He could talk from himself without being heckled by batteries of specialist advisers whose dazzling intellectual arguments all too often blind them to what is really at issue.

He managed, without fully understanding how, to rise above the dogma of party politics and act not from some ideological preconception but according to the needs of the particular moment. He thereby managed to appeal further than sectional interests to the nation as a whole, and not just to the mind of the nation but beyond, to its soul. Therein lay his true greatness.

Anthony Seldon

The author's book on the Churchill Government of 1951-55 will be published by Hodder & Stoughton in the autumn.

Letter from Aleppo

T. E. Lawrence & Co. slept here

They smashed the neon lights outside the Hotel Baron this month but the mobs threw nothing at the noble facade of a colonial watering-hole. T. E. Lawrence called it "the beautiful hotel, whose face you must be getting to know" when he wrote home on April Fool's Day, 1914, pleading his poverty.

Perhaps that is why old Armen Mazloumian deducted the price of a Cordon Rouge champagne from the great Englishman's hotel bill, leaving him just over 76 gold francs (about £170) to pay for a four-day stay.

You can still see why Lawrence liked it here: the aristocratic shutters, dressed stone and heavy teak doors with their worn brass handles speak of an earlier, lazier age when guests could take a turn at shooting duck in the gardens opposite.

Not that Lawrence had the money. In 1914 he was complaining bitterly at the cost of a teapot in Aleppo's over-priced souk and hinting to his family that he would like the money to purchase a sugar basin.

The Lawrence bill (including an inexplicable extra bottle of lemonade) stands now in a dusty wooden frame in the sitting room, the earliest account of the Hotel Baron's greatness. For great it undoubtedly was in that literary way that clings to old establishments long after the best guests have left town for the last time.

Cardinals, generals, millionaires, travellers, writers and spies all stayed in the high-ceilinged bedrooms of the Baron and left their mark in spidery handwriting upon the leather-bound visitors' book, fragile

paper evidence that Aleppo was once a cosmopolitan city. The names read like a social and political history of Britain, America and the Middle East. There is Arthur Warchoppe, British High Commissioner for Palestine, and just beneath him, the author R. V. Morton who once expressed his wish to like Damascus but complained about the tramways. Theodore Roosevelt and Gene Tunney are there. "Mr and Mrs Charles Lindbergh" are entered in the book in the kind of neat, calculated calligraphy of a man who measured altitudes when his life depended on it.

There are diplomatic names like Knatchbull-Hugessen and Leslie Hore-Belisha and some of the cream of European aristocracy: Viscount Dunsin, Prince Felix of Greece, Doreen, Lady Brabourne, Prince Bertil of Sweden and the Earl of Iveagh took their rooms at the Baron and so did Lady Cornwallis in the 1930s "en route", as she chose to inform posterity in the visitors' book, "to the ruins of Palmyra".

For a generation that simply cannot travel south across the border that once marked the frontier of Palestine, it is a rather wistful experience to discover a certain Kathleen Y. Rees-Mogg of Stratford-on-Avon boldly declaring herself, in March, 1935, as leaving "for the King David Hotel, Jerusalem".

There are echoes, too, of the gunfire that pushed the Vichy French out of Syria in the Second World War. Generals Slim, Spears, Auchinleck, Templer and Freyberg sternly autographed the book, the latter adding "GOC New Zealand Ex-

peditionary Force", lest anyone should forget.

More sinister figures appear just before them on the same page. There is Luftwaffe General Felmy, for example, who announced his provenance as Rhodes but placed a suspicious question-mark in the "destination" column. (He was in fact going to Baghdad to arrange the transit of Hitler's air force from Greece to Iraq.) Then there is the mysterious Dr Grobba, the German facsimile who organized the anti-British rebellion of Rashid Ali Qailani in Iraq during the war.

Down the page, you can find Cardinal Spellman, industriously trying to arrange a truce between the Western allies and the Nazis in a city which must have been as exotic in its intrigue as Casablanca was later for Humphrey Bogart. A clutch of Vichy officials wash in and out of the book until the page suddenly fills up with young British lieutenants with double-barrelled names. For just one night, the Polish General Sikorski stayed here, though no one remembers why.

Though no murders are recorded at the Hotel Baron, the Orient Express used to roll into Aleppo (the train divided here for Beirut and Baghdad) and the inevitability of finding Agatha Christie's name in the visitors' book—for she is indeed there—is worthy of any fictional denouement.

And there is a happy codicil to Lindbergh's entry in the calligraphic script penned in the book by Yuri Gagarin and Valentina Tereshkova, two of the Soviet Union's most famous space travellers.

Old Armen Mazloumian did 12 years ago, and the hotel passed to his son Krikor, who is himself now aged 70. A bald man with an impeccable English accent and an English wife, Krikor is arguably Aleppo's most formidable Armenian, a maître d'hôtel of enormous generosity and encyclopaedic memory who is accompanied everywhere by Caesar and Calpurnia, two large and restless British-born labradors that ceaselessly fight each other in the hotel lobby.

A few years ago, the Syrian Baath Party took over the Baron and Mr Mazloumian now holds the official status of tenant. He still effectively oversees the running of the place but admits that cooks are hard to come by and that things are not what they were. It is the sort of hotel where taps come off in your hand and where flame-thrower cooking sometimes does little for the cost chicken.

But memories have not gone. Mr Mazloumian was for years a friend of David Rockefeller (though the barmen refused to believe he was David Rockefeller) and Joyce Grenfell often came to stay in the post-war years.

Mr Mazloumian still has President Assad's appreciation of the Baron, a long script in green ink in which the Syrian leader thanked his "brother workers" for remaining awake all night during the visitor's book to grace the sitting-room showpiece but, things being what they are in Aleppo just now, it has been temporarily removed.

Robert Fisk

Sportsview

Five in a row for Oxford?

Five years ago I wrote a piece in this newspaper about the Boat Race. At least it was about my own reactions to the Boat Race. When a small boy living in the East End of London, where to everyone the race was one of the important events of the year, I had been passionately pro-Cambridge, or Kimebridge, as we customarily expressed it.

This was convenient, since Cambridge always won. Then I went to the place we had known as Oxford and changed sides, which was in this aspect inconvenient since Cambridge still nearly always won. In my time at Oxford (and my elders told me it was much the same in theirs) it was customary to deride the Boat Race as something only the poptoise cared about. (The real reason was that we lost losing.)

The rugged march, now, that was the thing! (We often won that). In 1975, I wrote—well, nearly, it was the sub-editor's heading and it is unfair to expect sub-editors, with all their other troubles, to write quite so badly wrong. After a long apprenticeship in defeat I find it difficult to believe Oxford men can row.

Look here, upon this picture, and on this, if Oxford were to win today it would be their fifth in a row and their sixth out of seven. To find five Oxford consecutive wins you have to go back to 1909-13. In the first four of those years they were stroked by the celebrated R. C. Bourne of Eton and New College. His father had rowed in a winning Oxford crew and his son was to do so.

Two of Bourne's races are remembered for reasons other than the rowing. In 1910 there was an outcry because the race took place in Holy Week and the Bishop of London permitted it only on condition that there were to be no celebrations afterwards (it was still the time when Boat Race Night was a jamboree).

In 1912 both boats sank. At least Cambridge sank and Oxford, well ahead, had to pull into the bank and empty out again. Then the umpire came up and declared "No Race" because Bourne was not pleased and continued to row. "What are you doing, Oxford? Where are you going? Didn't you understand that I have declared 'No Race'?" "We are going to Mortlake," Bourne shouted back, adding, after a pause, "Bourne was not pleased and continued to row." "What are you doing, Oxford? Where are you going? Didn't you understand that I have declared 'No Race'?" "We are going to Mortlake," Bourne shouted back, adding, after a pause, "Bourne was not pleased and continued to row." "What are you doing, Oxford? Where are you going? Didn't you understand that I have declared 'No Race'?" "We are going to Mortlake," Bourne shouted back, adding, after a pause, "Bourne was not pleased and continued to row."

Oxford went ahead on the number of victories at that time but Cambridge put that right with their record run from 1934 to 1936. The following year was the first that I had experienced a Cambridge defeat, but Cambridge have continued to have the better of things. Oxford have won only 17 times since the First World War and I see that Geoffrey Page has worked out that in the period Cambridge led by 1963 lengths to 591.

Alan G



A practice row for the Cambridge crew.

Why Anglicans must widen their horizons

I say we because I write not as an outside observer but as a loyal (though critical) parish priest who clings to a belief in our Church's potential importance to the whole ecumenical movement. The Anglican ethos with its remarkable blending of tradition and freedom, of order and tolerance, of spiritual and social insights to which which others would welcome if we were also open to their insights.

But that is threatening. To minimize risks few churchmen even bother to learn other people's languages. Foreign travel (except to the cona-del-church-with-everything) is increasingly regarded as an unnecessary expense, a somewhat self-indulgent pastime for ecumenists and Third-World-First enthusiasts who unhelpfully keep insisting that the proverb "charity begins at home" is nowhere to be found in Holy Scripture.

Of course that is not the whole truth. As an oft-absent London vicar described by the BBC's Gerald Priestland as probably the General Synod's most international member, I enjoy the loyal support of my parishioners, of many colleagues and of many other people at all levels of the Church. But a good many even of them seem almost relieved to be able to leave that part of the Church's ministry to a handful of people.

It remains true (not only in England, of course) that to

the missionary societies lively but struggling dement lobby. Relations North America are almost to chance.

The Church of England nothing half as profane as prophesying as the Catholic rite of International R or even that Church's rarer Justice and Peace mission. Church House have a low profile Intern Affairs Committee (at looking for a secretary) sensibly enough, most churches' experts in affairs are to be found British Council of Cl Division of Intern Affairs and its advisers. In their context is now also a new ch Human Rights Forum.

The new Archbishop, predecessors, will be the president. Already deep limited to good relation the Eastern Orthodox Ch Dr Runcie will also find ways to enable the of England to honour its to contribute more ecc to the work of the World cll of Churches. And it always the Vatican. All drawing Anglican and ec cl strands together, ordinating the available in a Church prides itself on not being litic will not be easy.

If, in search of bread hungry, justice for the sed, freedom for the p ted, peace for the war and, God's divisive yet lib Word for all. Dr Runcie pared to launch his Chm the deep, some will take and stay a dry land. I have no doubt, will be to form a competent an ing crew.

Paul Gestr

The author is secretary British Council of Ch East-West Relations At Committee.



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RST AND LAST THINGS

the culmination of passion and death in his action from the dead: a accomplishing redemption salvation for men. all other days in the year these few days attentive mind to communion of spiritual mysteries providence of God.

A middle of Holy Week is riot erupted in a con- decayed and largely habited quarter in the f the city of Bristol. Of its breaking the surface ty this is the type which eremptly recalls the n to its social duty: to its weight behind collec is political, action to the conditions, attitudes lect from which such con-

Things and the world s, the spiritual life and nds of human fellowship, re poles of attraction, men this way and that the Christian centuries. e not mutually exclusive ives but they invite dif- of emphasis and

The duality assumes uses—faith and works, an church and an official the contemplative and re life, worship and mis- be spiritual and the works of mercy. In the age, the distribution of is on the axis between les is a more informative tion than their assign- churches, denominations

ring the ecclesiastical large, one is led to con- at the claims the world the Christian—better e claims his duty to his r makes have the and at present. That y is seen most vividly. Liberation theologues urish in Latin America ica, with their doctrine ssential aspect of Ch- ration (though not the ount) is liberation from and economic op-

ascendancy also takes nfortable forms, like the endorsement of the mensus, the ideology of ights, by leading church- rer home. It is nicely ed by Dr Edward in a comment on the ment of the Church of "The state is, in effect,

at the present time lending the support of its authority to an unrepresentative body of religious officials who echo opinions it could otherwise elicit from a perusal of the quality press." He finds lacking, and he is not alone, a characteristically religious basis to the pronouncements of the spokesmen of religion.

Dante offered what is perhaps the most clear-cut of all theories which insist upon a distinction between the political and religious functions, practitioners of each sticking to their last. For him there were two monarchies, the imperial and the papal, the one divinely charged with ordering civil society, the other with shepherding souls heavenward. Each derived his commission directly from God independently of the other.

Their responsibilities correspond in Dante's scheme of things to man's intermediate place between the perishable and imperishable, of both of which he partakes by virtue of his dual nature of body and soul. Thereby two aims are set for him: happiness in this life and blessedness in the next. It is for the emperor to organize the one and the pope the other, since men would achieve neither aim if left to themselves.

The emperor, standing upon Aristotle, leads his people by the light of philosophy to the full development and exercise of their rational faculty, which is happiness. The pope, standing upon revelation, shepherds his flock to spirituality and ultimately to the presence of God.

It followed, among other things, that the church was of its nature disqualified from holding property except as temporary trustee for the poor. It also followed that the Donation of Constantine, emperor's temporal legacy to the pope, then generally believed to be historical, was *ultra vires* and void.

All this being derogatory of papal pretensions, the book in which Dante developed it was condemned as heretical not long after his death. But there is a more serious objection to it than that. No one can read the Gospels or even St Paul's Epistles without noticing that, as well as, and essentially connected with, their proclamation of the Kingdom of God, of salvation and of eternal life they contain urgent teaching about conduct in this life and man's relation to man. Dante

makes a demarcation which the Scriptures do not make. He was able to do so because of his confidence, which is not now easy to share, that right reason arrives by its own light at the Christian ethical position.

The sphere Dante allots to the emperor is the legitimate concern of the guardians of religion also. Worldly ambition is not the only motive for a pope or a preacher to invade the preserve of the civil magistrate—though when he does, it is well for everybody's sake if he pulls up short of Calvin's Geneva, where the clergy, not content with a claim to influence the magistracy, assumed a share of its authority.

The Church of England by law established in the reign of Queen Elizabeth II is a far cry from Dante's vision or the theocratic polity of Geneva. But the duality in the Christian system, which propelled these great men to extremes, affects this church, too.

"The Church of England", Bishop Hensley Henson wrote, "is a national institution, but it is also a spiritual society... its functioning as a national institution may or may not assist fulfilment of the higher obligations implicit in its spiritual character". A certain ambiguity qualifies the identity of any church, for the Christian religion is itself amphibious, being very much of the natural world while having its source and destination in the spiritual world.

The Archbishop of Canterbury implied in his enthronement sermon that his own answer to Hensley Henson's "may or may not" would be that the national institution may very well impede the spiritual society. He even expressed some grateful embarrassment at the magnificence of the ceremony of which he was the focus. The African enthronement which he was soon to attend might "prove more eloquent about the uncluttered way in which the church should live now, about the unpretentious character of real Christian authority".

Today's hungry sheep looking up to be fed, though having something to say no doubt about the standard of living of the shepherd, are likely to be more interested in the fodder on offer. The hunger which causes men to look to the church, among so many and varied authorities, agencies, experts and causes, is the hunger for spiritual nourishment.

FIDENCES, LEAKS AND SOURCES

an got short shrift in ment of Sir Robert in the Chancery Division gh Court on Wednesday. ish Steel Corporation ying for an order that television disclose the f the confidential docu- concerning the running of xporation which it d before its viewers at d moment in the steel

The documents were which BSC had copyright ncerning which its owed a duty of con- BSC were in court to the origin of the leak e more watertight in

More than one prime must have envied its Granada was there to its source, for his/her s own.

bert reassured the post- at journalists have n privilege against dis- their source of informa- a court of law. Few sis indeed would claim air professional rule take automatic prece- ver the requirement of that relevant evidence be

re practice, "which might ened into a rule of law", the interlocutory stage s would normally not be i to disclose their sources mation, extend to the the action? No. Did nt have a discretion to relevant evidence? Sir was doubtful. But if it

did, there would be a requirement to show that there was a recognised public interest supporting exclusion strong enough to outweigh the recognised public interest in having all relevant and proper evidence available at the trial. Had such a public interest in the non-disclosure of journalists' sources been recognized? No. Ought it to be? No. If contrary to his view, there was or ought to be such an interest would it in the present case have outweighed BSC's claim to be given the information it sought? No. All in all a comprehensive putdown.

In the course of coming to these conclusions the judge showed that he has a lower estimate of the value to society of the journalists' calling than the journalist himself would like to think it possessed. Nothing surprising about that. What was surprising was the argument he offered in support of his valuation. The press often exposed wrongdoing which might otherwise remain hidden. To that extent it was no doubt promoting a public benefit. But that was only a minor part of the usual functions of the press. Besides, no one laid a duty on it to do that kind of thing or invested it with special powers; "at most, there might be said to be a self-imposed duty". Anyway, a lot of investigative journalism misfires and finishes up in proceedings for libel and there have been instances of unwarranted abuses of privacy. And the press

was impelled by the profit motive and consciousness of mere newsworthiness.

The judge hardly seemed to distinguish between the role the press properly plays in the democratic process and its undoubted shortcomings. There was no recognition that, quite apart from exposure of wrongdoing, the press including broadcast journalism has a (self-imposed) duty to inform its readers of what public men and bodies are doing in the people's name and at their expense. If the duty is to be carried beyond handouts, journalists need access to sources of confidential information. If they can be easily compelled to divulge the identity of their sources they will not be able to do their job effectively.

This case is still on the way up, via, presumably, Lord Denning. If the higher court endorses the full rigour of Sir Robert Megarry's judgment, the nation will have a less penetrating, and in that sense, less free press. However it turns out, journalists should heed what was said in the course of the Chancery judgment. Sir Robert Megarry has some cause for the opinion in which he holds the press and broadcast journalism. Where a discretion has to be exercised, as it ought to be exercised in the question of compelling disclosure of sources of information for the purpose of legal proceedings, the press by its general practice has to earn, or at least not forfeit, the right to favourable consideration.

The San Salvador shooting

From Mr Peter Bottomley, MP for Greenwich, Woolwich West (Conservative) and others

Sir, The report in *The Times* today (April 3) suggested that Mr Robert White, the United States Ambassador in El Salvador, supports in full the Salvadoran Government's version of last Sunday's tragic events at the funeral of Archbishop Romero in San Salvador.

On at least three matters of fact (not mentioned in your report) we can state categorically that the Salvadoran Junta's statement is completely false.

Their communiqué issued on the Sunday afternoon states that the panic and deaths followed an attempt by leftist groups to snatch the coffin of Archbishop Romero. As eyewitnesses within a few feet of the coffin at the top of the cathedral steps and with an uninterrupted view of the cathedral square we testify that this assertion is false.

The communiqué bluntly stated that hispanic and foreign visitors were detained in the cathedral by "extremists". We ourselves made many individual excursions into the square and side streets outside the cathedral in the two hours following the first barbaric arrests.

The crowd remained inside for fear of being shot by security forces on the cathedral steps as happened last year under the lenses of the world's television cameras.

The Government statement claims that there was no public funeral (security forces) in the city until 5.30 pm. This is not true. We saw troops with machine guns patrolling the streets as we left the cathedral between 2 and 2.30 pm. and we had seen firing from the National Palace into the square. Many of our fellow visitors saw uniformed National Guardsmen inside the palace which houses the Ministry of Defence.

Foreign bishops at the funeral spelled all this out in their statement on that Sunday evening in San Salvador.

It is important that the apparently uncritical acceptance of the Salvadoran Government's version of events should be corrected at the first opportunity.

Yours faithfully,
PETER BOTTOMLEY,
JULIAN FILOCROWSKI,
Catholic Institute of International Relations,
JAMES O'BRIEN,
Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster.

Payment to strikers

From Mr Michael Ivens

Sir, Like some other organizations, we recommended to Mr James Prior that trade unions should be held responsible for making a contribution towards the payment to strikers and their families. We are pleased that the Government has done something—but regretful it does not go far enough. A payment of £12 per week by the unions is far too small.

In West Germany, for example, the unions pay 75 per cent of workers' average earnings for six weeks. Unofficial strikers receive no money from the union or the government.

For in France, West Germany or Italy no strikers could, or would, receive during the strike period. It is important that the Government closes up this loophole.

In the United States, the American Federation of Labour have quite frankly stated that they would never lose a strike if they worked on the British system.

We shall hear interminably from Mr Len Murray of the inequity of the new legislation, so perhaps he could spare the time to explain why the British are so different from the rest of the world, and why it is that the majority of the British public just do not agree with him.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL IVENS,
Director,
Aims of Industry,
40 Doughty Street, WC1.

Education in London

From Sir James Swaffield

Sir, Your Education Correspondent's report on March 22 suggested that proposals before the Secretary of State for the responsibilities of the LEA to be returned to the inner London borough councils.

The fact is that inner London has always had an integrated education system and that the responsibilities at present entrusted to the LEA have never been carried out by the inner London borough councils or the metropolitan borough councils before them. Accordingly, no question arises of whether functions should be returned to the boroughs.

Yours faithfully,
J. C. SWAFFIELD,
Clerk to the Inner London Education Authority, The County Hall, St. Paul's, London, EC4A 3DF.

Aims of Palestinians

From Mr M. Hassack

Sir, Mr Nobil Ramlawi writes to your paper today (March 27) to say that he is authorized to reject unequivocally the statements accredited to Yasser Arafat in a Venezuelan newspaper interview, as they had been translated from Arabic to Spanish, and then to English.

For those of us who cannot speak Arabic, perhaps the London representative of the PLO could now give us a definitive translation from the original to English, so that we can know what Mr Arafat actually did say. We would then be in a position to gauge whether it is he or Dr Everett Jacoby who should be accused of "mischievous tactics".

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN HASSECK,
104 Holders Hill Road, NW4.

Correction

In the leading article on Portugal on Thursday the reference to President Eanes should have read: "President Eanes, who made it clear during the election campaign that he was opposed to the Democratic Alliance..."

Rebuilding war-shattered Indo-China

From Mr Donald Southall

Sir, The appalling suffering of the people of Indochina (Kampuchea, Laos and Vietnam) has dramatically shown that if peace, stability and prosperity are to be created in that area, a substantial effort of international cooperation and reconstruction is required. The responsibility of the rich and industrialized nations is considerable. Power politics seems to have led to the devastation of last Sunday. The least we can do is to help to reconstruct the area.

The problems of Indochina may be similar in some respects to those of Europe after the Second World War. Then the United States generously gave 2 per cent of its gross national product to initiate the Marshall Plan. This statesman-like act probably laid the foundations of the restoration of Western Europe.

It should be possible today, given the necessary political will and commitment, for the international community to find the funds to launch a similar reconstruction plan in consultation with the peoples of Indochina and based on their needs and aspirations.

The report recently published by the Brandt Commission has emphasized the interdependence between rich and poor nations. At a time of world recession the poor nations need to be able to buy the goods which the rich nations have the capacity to provide. A reconstruction plan for Indochina would give an opportunity for implementing the global recommendations of the Brandt Commission on a regional basis.

If a durable peace in Indochina is to be assured, the political situation also needs attention. In this connexion it might be helpful if the 1954 Geneva Conference, or a similar international conference, were to be convened to help guarantee the independence of the countries of Indochina and their freedom from outside interference.

The tragic events in Indochina in recent years—the saturation bombings, the torture, the induced starvation, the plight of the refugees—provide a challenge to the international community not only to redeem the past, but to help restore faith and hope to the peoples of

the area by helping them rebuild their war-torn countries and shattered economies and ensuring a lasting peace.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD H. D. SOUTHALL,
Chairman,
Quaker Peace and Service,
Friends House, 25, Bedford Square, London, NW1.

From Mr John Montagu

Sir, The broad message of your leading article on Kampuchea (March 29) was depressing; the West has little political or diplomatic influence in Indochina, and it is now ASEAN's responsibility to make it up with Vietnam.

I do not believe it. If the West wanted to make an issue of Indochina it could do so; but it chooses not to. ASEAN's recent reminder to EEC foreign ministers, that to some people Indochina was an even more serious issue than Afghanistan, seems to have fallen on deaf ears here as well as in Brussels.

The need in Kampuchea remains as desperate as ever. The winter harvest is almost lost. Part of the dockside in Phnom Penh has collapsed and no one can think of an alternative supply route. Yet, one way or another, enough food and seed must be imported by July to avoid a ghastly repeat of 1979. The voluntary, church and other agencies on the spot do what little they can. But now some UN bodies and supporting governments, unbelievably, are pleading a cash shortage.

This is not just South East Asia's problem of last year. It is the world's problem now. And we can't simply pin it all to Pol Pot. Jumping jacks left over from the US-Vietnam War are still exploding in rice fields all the way up the Mekong into Laos. We have to prove that we care about the future of this "faraway" region. Whatever it takes, a big effort must somehow be made to upgrade the issue of Indochina and, at the very least, to bring Kampuchea back on to the map before it fades altogether.

Yours, etc.,
JOHN MONTAGU,
Christian Aid,
240-250 Finsbury Road,
Brixton, SW9.

Transport investment

From Mr T. L. Beagley

Sir, The letters on Transport in London from Mr Townsend and Mr Bottomley (March 21) and the chairman of London Transport (March 13) present two aspects of a single problem: how much of our resources should we devote to transport investment?

Mr Bennett produces figures to show how badly our transport expenditure in London compares with that in comparable cities on the Continent. Britain, he could, provide the equally disturbing figures on the rail side. The British Road Federation have recently shown how far our road network is falling behind our Continental neighbours, 1,650 miles of motorway compared with 2,900 miles in France and 4,400 in Germany. We still have no motorway link to our main port for the Continent, Dover.

The reasons are not hard to find. So much of the expenditure is in the public sector competing with more immediately appealing programmes in public transport and housing. It often takes so long to show productive results which makes it unattractive. The economic rate of return is difficult to assess accurately, particularly for urban road schemes and projects for the replacement of equipment.

passenger transport particularly so much depends on cost benefit assessments and the benefit side of the equation can be fraught with uncertainty. (The London traveller

owes a great debt of gratitude to Professor Foster for his imaginative cost benefit assessment in the 1960s of the Victoria Line: many of the elements were uncertain, but surely it has proved itself in the outcome?) What, then, is the case for the transport side tend to weaken our case by the arguments between the modes, but it is evident that other industrial countries have taken a different view about the priority for transport investment.

It is a difficult time to tackle this pressing national issue when cuts in public expenditure are the order of the day, but what is badly needed is a forward investment programme for transport covering the next 10 years and looking forward to the end of the century. We hope that the Minister's forthcoming White Paper on roads may be a constructive contribution to this and a decision on railway electrification is equally relevant. It is important that the programme should cover not only investment but also research and development, for example, related to energy, people and transport. This long-term approach would help to convince British industry and the travelling public that we really mean business about transport efficiency. It would also encourage the EEC to provide infrastructure funds.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
T. L. BEAGLEY,
The Chartered Institute of Transport,
80 Portland Place, W1.

Arsonists in Wales

From Sir David Llewellyn

Sir, It is sad that Mr Gwynfor Evans (April 1) does not devote one line of his letter to condemning the burning of other people's houses. I wonder how his reaction would be the same if his own house were destroyed by someone who dislikes the deluge of programmes in Welsh, inflicted on the great majority of Welshmen whose mother tongue is English.

I wonder too how he reconciles his refusal to pay for a TV licence with his complaint that Wales is not to have a Fourth Channel in Welsh. To weaken the BBC's financial capacity to cater for minority languages is a selfish act of sabotage, is, at best, inconsistent.

His indignation at not being prosecuted may appear to be the politically immature as showing a proper demand for martyrdom, if on the cheap. In these days of personal television, however, it is a particularly Welshman's way of passing a financial burden to his fellow countrymen, many of whom find it hard to pay the fee.

Many years of public life in Wales taught me that those who shout loudest about their love of country do not necessarily care the most, still less deserve to wear a martyr's crown.

Three times I had the honour to be elected Member for the Conservative Party in the heart of the

Welsh capital, denouncing Welsh nationalism and its twin, racialism, to the distaste of members of all parties who crawled in those gufers for votes. Nor once did Plaid Cymru dare to put up a candidate against me though on several occasions I was the target of their phone with death by cowards calling themselves nationalists.

I held the view—and still hold it—that apart from a few misguided romantics and a handful of Ministers seeking an alternative audience to the pens they have emptied, such men are inspired in the main by a wish to gain on the swings of nationalism what they have lost—or fear to lose—on the roundabouts of their careers. Where talent has failed, bilingualism, they hope, would burst their bread, at the expense of the majority, not least on TV.

If Mr Gwynfor Evans and his thousand men wish to earn money, let them back their own TV sets which cause them such offence.

That at least would be nobler than burning other people's homes, some owned by Welshmen who wish to have a stake in their own native land and a home of their own for their old age.

Yours etc.,
DAVID LLEWELLYN,
The Old Rectory,
Yattendon,
near Newbury,
Berkshire,
April 1.

Cuts in BBC music

From Mr James Loughran

Sir, If the present economic crisis within the BBC is forcing them to take a political gamble, as far as the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra is concerned it is a very cruel one, for I witnessed in real terms the stress undergone by my colleagues and their families when this same orchestra was threatened a few years ago. What I cannot understand is why the administration of the BBC has failed to prevent a similar crisis recurring when they have had over 10 years to find a solution to the problems.

Much has been written by many distinguished people about the service of this orchestra. It is, in fact, unique in the way it helps to develop our musical heritage. For six years I was Principal Conductor of this devoted group of musicians, and helped composers, conductors, singers and instrumentalists launch

their careers before a large and sympathetic listening public.

There is no alternative to the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. It is the only radio symphony orchestra in Scotland, and its role is different from other symphony orchestras who play nightly before a limited audience. Without them much of the rare and unknown would not have been heard, developed or promoted. It raises the question as to whether these latest proposed cuts are not in fact the thin edge of the wedge for the finest radio services in the world.

Constructive solutions are much more difficult to advance than letters of complaint and censure, and it is clear that a Commission should be set up to appreciate the BBC's financial dilemma.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES LOUGHRAN,
Principal Conductor,
Hallé Orchestra,
30 Cross Street,
Manchester.

Sale of public art collections

From Mr Peter Last

Sir, The intention of the University of Glasgow to sell its public collection of Whistler paintings and studies will give a very unfortunate example to the many public authorities in this country who have significant art collections in public hands are owned and managed by the local authorities in this country and at the moment those local authorities are under considerable financial pressure. Some would argue that those pressures are at least equal to the financial pressures upon the University of Glasgow.

Heretofore, almost without exception, the local authorities have resisted the temptation to sell off their art collections whether those art collections are on public exhibition or simply stored in reserve collections. The pressure, however, to sell art collections is still there and is unlikely to go away. Those of us who are resisting these pressures argue that the selling off of a local authority's art collection, if only in its smallest part, will inevitably discourage any potential donors to public collections. It can also be argued that some items in the reserve collection, which appear today to be of little value, and whose sale would therefore be of little consequence, may in future years, when tastes change, become significant items within the collection. One has only to look at the value that has been attributed to the paintings of Lord Leighton over the years.

My own authority is responsible for the Walker Art Gallery and recently the trustees of the Lady Lever Art Gallery at Bebington handed over to my authority the whole of the Lady Lever collection and the gallery itself. There is little doubt that this magnificent collection, some of which is shortly to go on display at the Royal Academy, would not have been given to my authority if there had been the slightest suspicion from our previous record or declared intentions of a willingness to sell off any part of our present collections.

I very much hope that ways will be found to enable the Whistler collection to remain in Glasgow and to be properly displayed for the benefit of the people of this country. It would be a tragic loss if this quite unique collection of Whistler's works were lost to this country and if such a sale were to preclude the sale of other public collections.

Yours faithfully,
PETER LAST,
Chairman of the Arts Committee,
Merseyside County Council,
Mersey House,
Old Hall Street,
Liverpool,
March 31.

Consumer representation

From Mr J. Lytle

Sir, According to your report today (March 31) Mrs Oppenheim, Minister for Consumer Affairs, has told the National Consumer Council that the voice of the consumer should carry at least as much weight in the councils of government as the voice of organized business. Mrs Williams, the responsible Minister five years ago, took a substantial step in that direction by securing a seat on the National Economic Development Council for the Chairman of the NCC.

Mrs Oppenheim is also "determined to keep politics out of consumer affairs". Could someone tell me how the voice is to carry weight—or even be heard at all—if politics are taboo? I had thought that Mrs Oppenheim was a politician, but perhaps she has an idiosyncratic definition of politics.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN LYTLE,
The Basement,
13 Aldebert Terrace, SW8,
March 31.

Theatre booking

From Mr Graham Noble

Sir, Is there a conspiracy to keep the public out of West End theatres? I refer to the woefully inadequate booking facilities; often one overworked person dodging back between the telephone, an ashtray and a ridiculously small window giving on to an increasingly impatient queue; in most cases, not even the faintest shelf on which to rest one's checkbook.

As one who prefers to book in person, I had the impression that telephone callers were given priority. Having tried to book by telephone last week—it took me three hours and 16 engaged tones before I got through—I now know that there is little to be gained by that method.

Yours,
GRAHAM NOBLE,
4 Park Avenue,
Gillingham,
Kent.

Jesse Owens

From Miss Marjorie Pollard

Sir, At the Olympic Games of 1936 in Berlin, I was privileged to hear a conversation between Thomas Woodruffe (BBC commentator) and Jesse Owens, relaxed as always, soon after he had won his four gold medals.

This was no formal recorded interview, it was a friendly conversation between two friendly people. Mr Woodruffe said "Jesse, ever do you do it?" and as a great grin spread over his face, a gentle, soft voice replied "Oh—Ah just likes running races".

One of the great moments, for me, in a long games-playing life.

Yours faithfully,
MARJORIE POLLARD,
The Deanery,
Bampton,
Oxfordshire,
April 2.

From Mr C. F. Elias

Sir, The recent death of Jesse Owens is a reminder that he did more for his cause by going to the Olympic Games than he would ever have done by staying away.

Yours faithfully,
C. F. ELLIAS,
4 Ashburnham Road,
West Kirby,
April 1.

ock in Cyprus

nd Spens

ur leading article today 31) on Cyprus has missed believe to be the most im- problem concerning the a the Turkish Cypriot popu- today. That problem is their security.

1 years, between the end of d the Samson coup of July Turkish Cypriots suffered enormous casualties by yprache which included the over 100 villages in the

behind the Turkish troops, a secure and no longer have their guard against attacks e Greek Cypriots. Unless a tory solution can be found, ill enable them to continue secure after the Turkish are withdrawn, they will not this security.

Now, or the EEC or a Bri- ticism pact, can guarantee hem the continuance of the y they enjoy today?

faithfully,
Of Lords.

th risks from lead

Mr Brian Price

and Ashby (April 2) raises two important points con- cerning both the role of pressure and the function of scientists

in the lead pollution debate. His implicit accusation that pressure groups have lied and distorted the truth when using scientific facts is unworthy of someone who has done so much to improve the quality of our environment. I know of no reputable group opposed to leaded petrol that has deliberately used scientific data in this manner and it has certainly been the policy of Friends of the Earth to steer as accurately as possible through the mine of argument and counter-argument which this subject has engendered.

The function of scientific workers is to determine and present the facts of the matter as best they can, and for this they deserve our thanks. Controversy arises, however, when the truth is not in black and white (a frequent occurrence) and when the question becomes one of interpretation rather than one of absolute truth.

The Lawther report on Lead and Health has collected a wealth of important data and presented it in a convenient and accessible form. This is most welcome, but less welcome is the authors' interpretation of the evidence relating to lead and the mental health of young children. Much of this section is concerned with a discussion of blood lead levels, yet these are notoriously unreliable indicators of long-term lead exposure. Professor Needleman's work on tooth lead, which indicates that as many as 20 per

cent of urban children may be suffering significant lead-induced mental impairment, cast across this evidence yet is treated unjustifiably cautiously by the report's authors. This is despite the fact that no serious flaws have been found in Needleman's work in the 14 months since it was published—and not for want of trying by those who stand to lose by its acceptance.

A further flaw in the report is its assessment of the contribution of airborne lead to total lead uptake. By concentrating on inhaled lead particles, the authors take insufficient account of the fallout of lead dust on to cooking surfaces, utensils and food in urban homes. This makes up part of the lead burden derived from food but its origin, vehicle emissions, is masked.

Clearly, we cannot but agree that remedial action must be taken to reduce lead exposure from water, paint and food. But we believe that the role of motor vehicle lead emissions has been underplayed by the report and that the situation is worse than the authors assert. Other countries in Europe and elsewhere have greatly reduced or banned lead additives to petrol. We owe it to our children to do the same.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN PRICE, Pollution Consultant to Friends of the Earth Ltd, Central Hall, Old Market Street, Bristol,
April 2.

Correction

In the leading article on Portugal on Thursday the reference to President Eanes should have read: "President Eanes, who made it clear during the election campaign that he was opposed to the Democratic Alliance..."

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

JP 11/10/50

sonal
estment and
nce,
es 18 and 19

Stock markets
FT Ind 432.6 up 0.5
FT Cls 64.74 down 0.24

Sterling
213.90 down 150 pts
Index 72.3 down 0.4

Dollar
Index 91.8 up 0.2
477.5 down 523.5

Money
months sterling 18.7
month Euro 5 19.1
month Euro 5 19.1

IN BRIEF

Nada may transfer Hunt arrests

Nelson Bunker Hunt, American multi-millionaire, attempted to corner the silver market, collapsed, may find the transfer of Hunt and his associates to the United States, thought to be at least \$200m (about £100m), to compensate for losses to the silver market.

Foreign Investment Regency announced on April 4 that it was investigating the transfer of Hunt and his associates to the United States.

ready for IMF

Yu Quili, the Chinese minister, said in Tokyo that China was ready to join the International Monetary Fund.

to sue

Caladonian Airways is suing the United States for ordering the grounding of 10 aircraft after last month's crash.

fish industry

French Government will be totalling 175m francs to the fish industry in an attempt to reduce current trade deficit.

cleared

United States has agreed to a Japanese-Soviet gas project from economic sanctions.

Irish project

ord Inc is to invest about £4.62m in a new Athlone in the Irish to make agricultural machinery, hay shredders and other blades.

PO board

John Joseph, Secretary for Industry, has said Miss Eileen Cole as time member of the Post Board and reappointed as Gladwin. Miss Cole is executive of Research.

raises oil price

ria has raised the price of oil by 51 cents a barrel, its top-grade crude oil, and bringing it to 21.15 with prices charged.

zon joins

Coal International, led by the National Board in 1977 to expand industry exports, has joined by Horizon, the oil and mineral exploration company.

PRICE CHANGES

S	Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
1	5p to 70p	25p to 140p	25p to 140p	25p to 140p
2	13p to 180p	25p to 140p	25p to 140p	25p to 140p
3	13p to 180p	25p to 140p	25p to 140p	25p to 140p
4	13p to 180p	25p to 140p	25p to 140p	25p to 140p
5	13p to 180p	25p to 140p	25p to 140p	25p to 140p
6	13p to 180p	25p to 140p	25p to 140p	25p to 140p
7	13p to 180p	25p to 140p	25p to 140p	25p to 140p
8	13p to 180p	25p to 140p	25p to 140p	25p to 140p
9	13p to 180p	25p to 140p	25p to 140p	25p to 140p
10	13p to 180p	25p to 140p	25p to 140p	25p to 140p

Government joins private sector in rescue of Belgian steel industry

From Peter Norman

Brussels, April 4

The Belgian Government and a group of the country's leading private financial and industrial interests have agreed to establish a joint company to help to finance the restructuring of Belgium's stricken steel industry.

On Thursday, just before Mr Wilfried Martens, the Belgian Prime Minister, tried to tender the resignation of his cabinet in the latest government crisis, Mr Willy Claes, the economics minister, signed an agreement to set up the Societe Financiere de la Siderurgie (SFS).

The company will raise between 10,000m and 16,000m francs (between £143m and £229m), representing that part of the 44,000 franc five-year investment plan for the industry that is not to be provided either by the state or from the industry's own resources.

With the government, which is providing 15 per cent of the company's 1,000m franc capital, the shareholders in SFS will include Belgium's two major holding companies, the Societe Generale de Belgique and Compagnie Bruxelles Lambert, the Arbed steel concern in Luxembourg, six insurance companies, and regional investment concerns covering the areas in which the industry is based.

Such backing should enable the company to raise a volume of funds that would otherwise have been beyond the capability of the industry itself.

The creation of SFS has been fraught with difficulty. The idea was first put forward in



Mr Willy Claes: "stick and carrot" negotiation succeeds.

October, 1978, and it is no secret that Belgium's ministry of economic affairs would have liked to have seen the company in operation at least six months ago.

The agreement marks the culmination of protracted "stick and carrot" negotiation on the part of Mr Claes with the private groups to persuade them to participate.

These delays have meant that SFS will start its operations in a far less favourable climate than would otherwise have been the case.

Since the idea was first mooted, interest rates have spiralled upwards throughout the world and, while nobody doubts that the company will be able to raise the finance needed, the cost will be much higher than it would have been 18 or even six months ago.

Shipbuilders board to retain union members

By Peter Hill

Industrial Editor

Trade union representatives are to be retained as part-time members of the board of British Shipbuilders. The Government has decided to keep union participation at board level even though it plans to introduce legislation later this year for having off parts of the industry to the private sector.

Two trade union leaders already on the board will be reappointed when their present contracts expire and a third will be appointed to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Mr Leslie Gregory, national officer of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union.

A feature of the three-year life of the state shipbuilding corporation has been the degree of progress made in the labour relations field through reducing the level of strikes and stoppages caused by demarcation disputes.

A major achievement has been to reach agreement with the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions (CSEU) on a single negotiating pay date coupled with a joint commitment to productivity improvement plans.

The agreement marks the culmination of protracted "stick and carrot" negotiation on the part of Mr Claes with the private groups to persuade them to participate.

These delays have meant that SFS will start its operations in a far less favourable climate than would otherwise have been the case.

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Stone-Platt is forced to change borrowings after trading losses

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Stone-Platt Industries, the textile machinery and engineering group which recently reported a huge turnaround from profit to loss in 1979, has run into default on some of its borrowings and has been forced to rearrange most of its bank loans.

The bulk of the group's debt has now been switched from medium- and long-term to a common maturity date of January 4, 1982. Stone-Platt will have to strengthen its balance sheet with asset sales or disposals of certain operations as quickly as possible.

"We certainly have to do something to get our balance sheet back into a healthy state," Mr McGrath said on Thursday. Mr McGrath was formerly finance director of the group and is now managing director of the group's electrical division. He said the group was in a "very crucial next 12 months".

Last month Stone-Platt reported a pre-tax loss of £2.94m, compared with a profit of £9.51m in 1978. The 1979 results also revealed heavy extra-

ordinary losses, relating mainly to redundancy and closure costs at the group's Oldham textile machinery plant.

The group's trading losses and below-the-line provisions eroded reserves by £17.5m and this led to the limits being breached on one of the group's loans with Grindlays Bank. This in turn triggered off cross-default clauses with the other banks.

The group's main banker has traditionally been the Midland Bank, although it also has facilities with all the other clearing banks and with two American banks. Negotiations with the banks had been proceeding for about two weeks before Thursday's announcement.

Stone-Platt's total borrowings at December 31 were £39.5m, of which £30.1m consisted of unsecured bank borrowings in the United Kingdom, £4.1m represented outstanding 7 per cent debenture stock 1984-89 and the rest was from overseas borrowing.

When the group announced its 1979 results last month, £36.2m of the debt was shown as long- and medium-term, with only £3.7m repayable within

five years.

The result of the new arrangements with the bankers means Stone-Platt will be left with overdrafts and loans of £3m, £30.1m worth of overdrafts and other loans maturing in January, 1982 and only £5.8m of the long- and medium-term borrowings, including the debenture stock.

Stone-Platt emphasizes that its total facilities remain unchanged. It only has about 60 per cent of its sterling facilities drawn down, and there is no need for these to be raised. Interest rates on the loans will remain unchanged.

The group will seek ways to reduce its borrowings, which represent about two-thirds of shareholders' funds following a recent property revaluation. It will be considering disposals, and in particular the fate of the marine engineering activities is being reviewed.

Stone-Platt's main problems have centred round its textile machinery operations. Heavy losses have been incurred in the United Kingdom and the group has been trying to stem these with closures and by reducing capacity.

Imports worry on plastics

By Bill Johnstone

Hundreds of tons of imported plastic containers are flooding the British market, even though they can be made just as cheaply in Britain, according to a report issued by the British Plastics Federation.

The federation, whose 360 members and 300 affiliated members produce about 65 per cent of the annual turnover of plastic mouldings, has held its own survey into the number and variety of plastic imports entering the United Kingdom.

The survey was arranged in response to a growing concern within the industry that many of the items labelled "miscellaneous" in government statistics, could in fact be broken down into distinct categories.

"Last year the imports of plastic products which are not specifically identified by the external trade classifications were valued at £77.4m", the report said.

According to the report, produced in collaboration with the Rubber and Plastics Research Association, the manufacture of containers is an area in which British manufacturers could benefit from the opportunities.

The federation is also concerned because the imports come from sophisticated industrialized countries.

It said: "Our report highlights numerous opportunities for import substitution not previously identified by official statistics and that these imports are no coming from cheap labour countries. Most of these imported plastic items come from highly industrialized countries, those with the highest labour costs, like West Germany, the United States, France, Italy, Eire and Holland."

This evidence, the federation believes, contradicts the common argument that such imports make headway into the country because they are from countries with low cost labour.

Call to rationalize specifications for engineering equipment

By Patricia Tisdall

Management Correspondent

Specifications used by purchasers of large-scale engineering equipment still need to be rationalized, according to a report submitted by Sir John Frederick to the National Economic Development Council this week.

The report, which is the progress of recommendations for more harmonization of technical standards which he made to the NEDC three years ago.

Some advances have been made towards reducing the diversity of purchasing specifications for engineering items in common use, but much remains to be done, said Sir Frederick.

Such rationalization can help to reduce inventory and production costs and improve manufacturing efficiency.

The earlier recommendations identified the three main areas of large engineering users, nationalized industries and local and central government where, it was felt, reductions in the diversity of specifications could usefully be made.

Separate presentations are to be made shortly to the council on the nationalized and government sectors. Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, and Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, are drawing up a report on ways in which public purchasing can assist industrial efficiency. This is expected to take into account the contribution of local and central government as well as of the nationalized industries in reducing the number of specifications.

Progress in the engineering sector remains slow. According to Sir Frederick, there is a need for strengthening the users' input into the British Standards Institution. This still seems, to users, to be dominated by the suppliers' point of view and so is being utilized far less often than it could be, he says.

The BSI has been meeting large engineering users to see, for example, if graded standards could be adopted to give optional additional requirements to meet the specific needs of users. Another approach is to accept international standards already in use in particular industries (such as the oil industry) into the BSI.

Representative bodies do not always exist to define and coordinate user requirements before new standards are drawn up. Sir Frederick is calling for a fresh approach to the large engineering buyers, in the first instance, to map out suitable fields for rationalization programmes linked to standards in association with BSI, the manufacturers, and those concerned with legislative requirements. "Such rationalization programmes should show tangible benefits to users, in terms of price advantages for standard items, as well as to manufacturers", he says.

A relatively small number of large engineering buyers, especially the capital intensive process industries such as oil and chemicals, require many common items for which they draw up individual specifications. These often incorporate requirements independent of British Standards because these are, in many cases, unsuitable for their needs. But, because they account for a substantial proportion of plant and equipment purchases, these buyers have the greatest potential for improving the situation.

Dutch close oil rig and ship venture

The Hague, April 4

The Dutch Government on Thursday decided to abandon its attempt to save its shipbuilding and offshore oil platform construction industry in Rotterdam.

Mr Gijb van Aardenne, the Economics Minister, told reporters that the Cabinet had decided to dismantle the government-owned Rotterdam Offshore Shipbuilding Company (ROS) rather than continue to pour money into it.

The cabinet decided it would be too costly to try to salvage the industry in the face of competition from Japan and South Korea, where the same ships and platforms can be built for 30 to 40 per cent less.

The government created ROS in January, 1979, to save the division of Rijnschelde Verolme (RSV), which built ships (mainly bulk carriers) and 100,000 deadweight tons and offshore platforms. ROS cost the government \$10m (about £5.7m) last year.

ROS managers had said they would need another \$50m this year or guarantee from the government that new contracts would be forthcoming. The would have cost at least \$2.50m, the minister said.

Mr Aardenne also said the government would bring in a new law to allow the shipbuilding sector to be dismantled.

Dismantling ROS will mean an end to large ship and platform construction in the Netherlands. Other divisions of RSV, the country's largest shipbuilder, are healthier and continue to operate privately.

Observers said it was unlikely that Parliament would challenge the government's decision because of the latter's financial troubles.

The ministry said two-thirds of the 1,700 men employed at the ROS yard in Rotterdam, the world's largest port, could find work elsewhere in RSV or at other shipyards.

Dollar's gain continues as gold price slips by \$23.5

By John Whitmore

The dollar continued to gain ground ahead of the Easter weekend, but in much quieter trading than had been seen earlier in the week. Conversely, gold finished the week on a particularly dull note, falling \$23.5 in London on Thursday.

The metal met selling in response to both the previous day's further rise in American prime rates and the disappointing result of the latest IMF gold auction. The average price at the auction had been \$184.01 an ounce.

Further demand for the dollar saw the rate rise to 19655 Deutsche Marks (from DM 19515) in Europe. Sterling also slipped, falling 16 cents to \$2.1390. The pound also finished marginally lower against some continental currencies and its trade-weighted index finished

0.4 lower at 72.3. Selling was light, however, and dealers described the market as very thin.

The continuing tightness in United Kingdom money markets and the general uncertainty caused by high American interest rates produced yet another rise in the United Kingdom Treasury Bill Rate.

The 14-day bill rose to 16.3039 per cent from 16.2838 per cent the previous week. The money markets themselves, conditions remained extremely tight and further substantial help was required from the Bank of England. Three month interbank rate was fractionally easier than on Wednesday, as high as 181 per cent. Gilrעד prices drifted lower in expectation of a new "tap" stock, which at the end of the day failed to materialize.

Mr Carter authorizes China trade loans

Washington, April 4

President Carter has authorized the United States Export-Import Bank to finance loans to China in order to help the sale of United States goods.

Under American law, the President must decide that it is "in the national interest" before such loans can be made to a Communist country.

He has made this determination in the past for the benefit of trade with Yugoslavia, Poland, Hungary and Romania.

When Mr Walter Mondale, vice-President, visited China recently, he suggested that the United States would make \$2,000m available to China over five years. The Export-Import Bank's total budget of \$3,500m last year was cut by \$300m since October 4 last year.

The China International Trust and Investment Corporation (CITIC) said contracts were being prepared for repairs services for foreign ships, machinery building and rubber production. The agency said CITIC would open a branch in Hong Kong this year to undertake business and commissions in China and abroad.

A bank spokesman said it would take some time for the Chinese to decide what kind of imports they wanted to finance with loans from the bank.

In the past, it has been the policy of the Chinese government to do all its buying with the proceeds of China's own exports. Recently, however, it has begun to show interest in getting loans from the West.

BL in drive to clear dealers' stocks in United States \$4,000 discount offered on Jaguars

Jaguar dealers in the United States are being offered discounts of up to \$4,000 (£1,870) per car in a new effort by the company to dispose of its stocks of XJS and XJ12 1979 models.

The deal, which does not correct cars already delivered to distributors' showrooms, is being offered by Jaguar Rover Triumphant Inc of New Jersey in the face of declining sales, particularly of the XJ12.

Under the terms of an earlier incentive scheme, dealers were offered \$2,000 off the wholesale price of the prestige XJS. This has not been doubled in the case of 1979 XJ12s and the discounts are expected to continue until stocks have been moved.

A spokesman for JRT in New Jersey declined to reveal the size of the company's inventory of 1979 models but added that it was "a worrisome number". Although some series XJ12 models, which were launched in BL last year but are not covered by the American discount scheme, have been delivered, the car has now been withdrawn from the American market.

In the first three months of this year, total Jaguar sales in the United States were 769 against 1,092 a year earlier. The spokesman said the dip was "a reflection of supply rather than anything else".

The larger XJ12 models had not been selling well since last spring's fuel crisis and now "do not contribute to our corporate average fuel economy figures". But XJ12 sales had improved.

JRT Inc maintains that the Jaguar range remains in the lead in the luxury car class. Maximum retail prices of Jaguars are similar to those of comparable luxury cars imported from other European manufacturers and are considerably lower than United Kingdom prices. The latter, unlike United States prices, are inflated by the addition of car tax and Value Added Tax.

The top price for a 1979 model XJS in the United States is \$26,000 (about £11,500) against the current British price for a 1980 model (including tax) of £19,187. The series 2 XJ12 has an American price tag of \$24,000 (about £11,200) compared with a series 3 XJ12

price in Britain of £18,155.

American customers, however, can now expect to pay substantially less, with dealers passing on the bulk of the new discounts.

In contrast, a Mercedes 450SL sells for \$35,839 (£16,747) in the United States. A BMW 733i for \$22,843 (£13,525) and a Porsche 928 for \$37,950 (£17,724).

The American car market is showing signs of depression. Sales of American-built cars fell 16.2 per cent in mid-March from the level a year earlier.

Edward Townsend

Capital plan for small firms to be extended

By Derek Harris

Commercial Editor

Extension of the venture capital scheme for small businesses, launched by the Government at the end of last year in the Department of Industry's eastern region, is to be announced shortly with a key institution putting up the finance. Financing of at least £1m in the first year of operation is expected.

Mr David Mitchell, a junior minister at the Department of Industry responsible for small businesses development, is now an advanced stage of negotiation with one of the institutions after a surge of interest among pension funds and others. The department's initiative is aimed at setting up pilot schemes throughout the regions in England.

The second region to benefit from the scheme has yet to be selected, but both the North-east and North-west of England have been under consideration because of their unemployment problems.

One reason Mr Mitchell is hastening to extend the experiment is because of the unexpectedly heavy response to the first scheme, announced last November. There were a flood of applications for help for small businesses, some from workers recently made redundant and who wanted to invest severance pay.

So far the department's small firms service has identified nearly 50 applicants as worth close assessment by the Post Office Staff Superannuation Fund which has gone in with the scheme in the eastern region. The scheme covers a swathe of country from Berkshire and Oxfordshire to Norfolk and Suffolk.

The Fund has completed its assessment of the first applicants and offers are now going out to them. The Fund is looking mainly for an equity stake while offering between £5,000 and £20,000 a business. But the Fund has not excluded the possibility of other arrangements such as convertible debentures or even loans.

The fund has built in this flexibility to cope with a frequent problem arising from small businessmen's jealousy of their independence. Buy-back arrangements for stakes put up by the fund could also be considered.

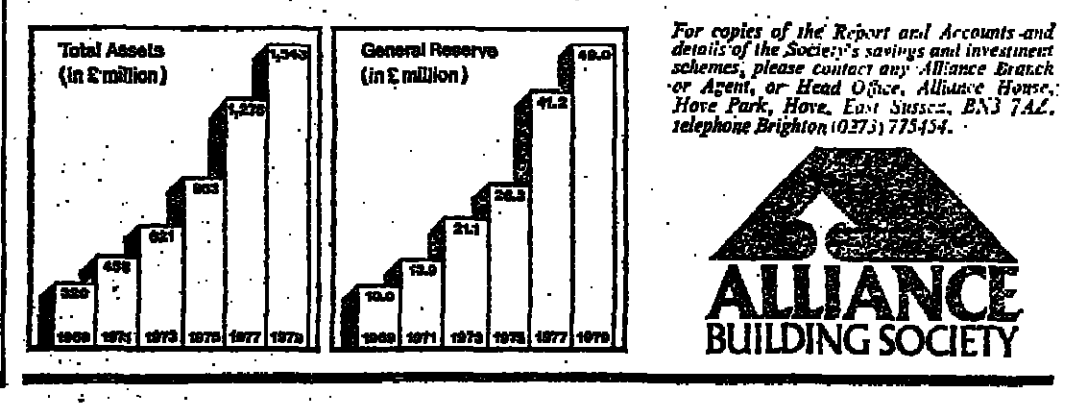
The extent of the response and the fact that so many ventures have been put forward may mean some reassessment of the amount of capital needed not only in the eastern region but elsewhere. When it came into the scheme the first year, many of the assessed applicants came up to scratch, rise well above the £1m mark.

Despite the striking response, both institution and government are waiting to see how the scheme develops before passing any final judgment. It has always been accepted that there may be a high failure rate among businesses that are helped.

Alliance Building Society assets top £1.5 billion

Highlights from the speech by Mr. L. Farrer-Brown, C.B.E., Chairman, at the Annual General Meeting in Hove on 3rd April, 1980.

- ★ The Society's assets grew nearly five times in the 1970's to over £1.5 billion. General Reserve has grown to over £49 million.
- ★ The Society is geared for the 1980's. Personal service is at its best continues to be the keynote.
- ★ In the tradition of Alliance enterprise for personal savers, the Society launched new term and bonus shares and a Fixed Rate Bond. Each offered attractive interest rates above the ordinary share rate and has been well supported by investors.
- ★ £245 million was lent on mortgage, priority being given to investing members. More could have been lent if more money had been available.
- ★ The Society wants the cost of mortgages to be as low as possible, but it believes it would be better for building societies to be able more nearly to meet the demand than for the present shortage of building society mortgages to continue.
- ★ If adequate resources are to be available to meet the demand and a good and fair return paid to investors, the building societies' mortgage rate needs to be brought closer to the other market rates.
- ★ A wider acknowledgement of the effect of inflation on the real cost of a mortgage would help. Because of inflation a building society mortgage is a good bargain for the borrower even at 15 per cent.



PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Around the world in 80 days for £594

A round-the-world trip is as glamorous a prospect as ever, for what the aircraft has done to shrink the world, members of the organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries have done to expand it. Or have they?

In fact, it need not cost as much as you think—although it can cost as much as you care to spend—to make that trip. Some people can scrape up six weeks of holiday these days and despite inflation—and in the case of civil servants because of it—there are others who on retirement have both the time and a nest-egg to finance a once-in-a-lifetime adventure.

What, then, is an offer to help you to get round the world as safely, comfortably and economically as your time and money allow?

I must say I am not wild about boats myself. I know I would just lie around too much over-eating and over-drinking, but after all, there are people who like that kind of holiday. And the phrase "round the world" does seem rather to beg the addition of the word "cruise".

We all know there are a number of "hell-ships" about disguised as luxury cruise liners. If I had time and money I would probably act on impulse, which means spur-of-the-moment, phone calls, to both the market leaders.

P & O's Canberra does not leave on her next two-month round-the-world cruise until January 8 next (in fact, she sets back to Southampton from her present cruise in a week's time).

Cunard's QE2 leaves New York next January 12, returning on April 2 to Southampton. They are both taking bookings now.

Even if you could spare the time and the money, it all seems a bit far off. Or does anticipation the better part of cruising?

For £5,240 you would get a first-class flight from Heathrow to the QE2 in New York, a place in a two-berth inside cabin, and 23 ports of call from alphabetically, Acapulco to Tongatapu. And oh, there are £17.50 port charges, too. If that is not good enough, you could have the very best—a luxury cabin at £29,885 a head, and "slightly more" for a penthouse.

The Canberra cruise by contrast costs roughly half as much—from £2,848 a time for one of the four berths in a cabin to £13,552 a head for a double cabin de luxe. Stops? 21 of them, from Acapulco, to Sydney.

By next January, however, there could be a very tasty morsel on offer from Thomas Cook. From what I hear they will announce this summer an all-in round-the-world package tour costing £1,500 or less—and you could take the first one in October if you were quick enough.

You will get between 32 and 40 days, depending on which of the nine or so stopovers you take and whether you want to do a few little trips on the side. The problem, as I see it, is that most of the stopovers will be in the Far East and the United States, but then at that price you cannot have everything.

You could, however, have a wider spread of stops if you cared to dispense with the packaging around just take a round-the-world air ticket.

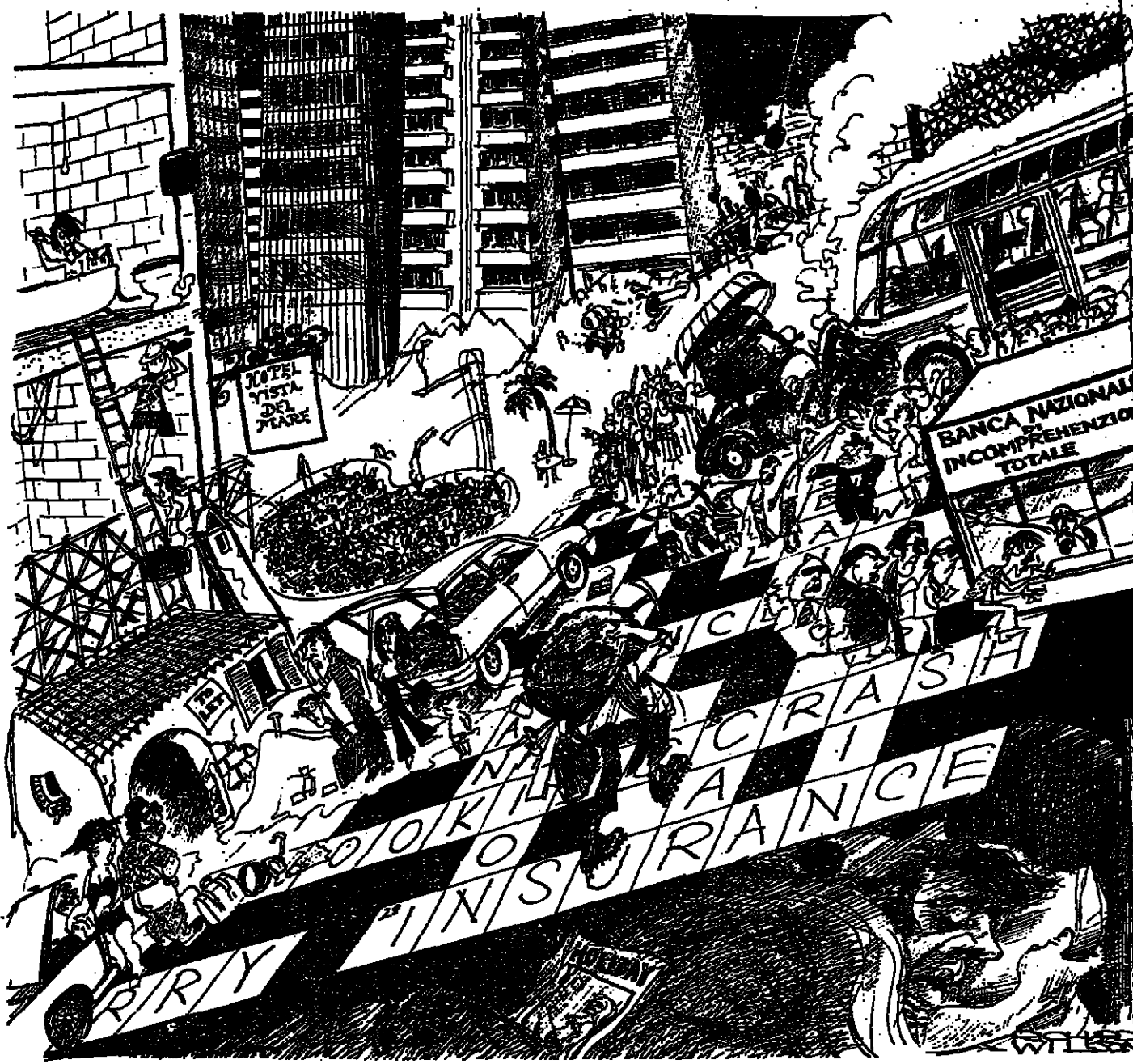
You cannot fly the flag because British Airways do not do a special ticket, but both Pan Am and TWA have them and are well worth investigating.

Pan Am has been selling a ricker covering between 22 and 80 days, London to London, with 12 stopovers for as little as £549 (standby economy fare and £729 advance booking). First-class tickets (and it is the way to fly round the world) at the time of writing to press were £879 standby and £1,139 advance booking.

TWA do not do standby fares, but are more flexible in other ways, such as how long you stay away and how many stops you have—and the cost is much the same (£1,599 economy, £2,499 first class).

Ross Davies

Holidays—making the most of your money



Check the brochures afterwards

Some holidaymakers who take package trips this year are likely to be hunting through the brochures for price comparisons after they get back as well as before they go.

The reason is that Portland Holidays, part of the Thomson group and one of the newer companies selling holidays direct to the public, is guaranteeing refunds to its customers to make their holidays 10 per cent cheaper than identical or similar ones they can find sold by commission selling through travel agents.

Portland launched itself with a series of advertisements claiming that its customers would save 10 per cent because they booked direct. Ten per cent is the travel agents' usual commission.

A sceptical customer, looking at Intasun's brochure instead of taking Portland's word for the price advantage, would have found that for 14-night holidays and for children's holidays in the same hotels at the same time Intasun was often cheaper than Portland. In one case Intasun was 53 per cent cheaper.

After representations had been made to the Advertising Standards Authority Portland quickly produced their price promise and it has already cost them quite a lot of money to stand by their claim to be 10 per cent cheaper than companies selling conventionally.

They have cut their brochure prices on holidays in some ten hotels already and many of their customers will feel their reductions automatically. But the complexity of price comparisons in the holiday business is such that Mr Kevin Doffey, Portland's general sales manager, says: "It may well be that there are some cases where we are 10 per cent cheaper than conventional operators."

The terms of Portland's price promise is that holidays must be at the same hotel and of similar duration. They will accept comparisons with departures from Gatwick on any day of the week though even in their own brochure, prices depend on which day of the week flights are taken but they do exclude comparisons with rivals' holidays on which clients have to return to Britain in the small hours of the morning.

RY

When your holiday is a disaster

Most people have happy holidays, but for an unlucky minority things go disastrously wrong. The most frequent complaints of package holiday makers are about travel delays, followed by grievances connected with changed arrangements, poor hotel accommodation, bad food and overbooking.

The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) publishes a useful leaflet on package holidays abroad, which includes a formidable checklist of inquiries the holiday maker should make before putting his signature to any booking form. With its attention to the small print it goes far beyond the elementary precaution of shopping round among several brochures to compare holiday options and prices.

The code of practice agreed between the OFT and the Association of British Travel Agents (Abta), whose members handle 95 per cent of package holiday bookings, requires that tour operators' conditions about surcharges, cancellations, holiday insurance and arrangements to holiday arrangements must be set out in the brochure, but terms vary, so each must be carefully checked.

And there remain a disheartening array of possible causes of holiday disaster that no amount of diligent inquiry can safeguard the holiday maker against.

Thanks to air traffic controllers working to rule and other disruptions to airlines' services, flight delays are such a

regular feature that most tour operators automatically insure against it. If the cover is an optional extra—around 65p—buy it. Do not forget to check what compensation or right to cancel the tour operator may be offering.

The Abta code accepts overbooking by continental hotel managers as an inevitable fact of life, although members obviously do their best to avoid it. If it is discovered before departure, the Abta tour operator is obliged to offer the choice of an equivalent holiday or the right to cancel with a prompt refund.

If it is discovered only on arrival, he must find his clients somewhere else to stay and offer disturbance compensation if it comes below the standard originally booked.

Only one of two companies give an unconditional guarantee against surcharges, but under the Abta code none relating to currency fluctuations can be imposed less than 30 days before departure, though those related to fuel price increases can be imposed at shorter notice.

What happens if, despite every precaution, the holiday trip ends in disappointment as some inevitably will? Both the OFT and Abta offer advice on how to complain and also have a conciliation and arbitration procedure to which more than 5,000 disgruntled sun-seekers resort each year.

If you have cause for complaint you should take it up at

once with the tour company representative, or hotel manager. If it is not dealt with satisfactorily you should keep all the relevant documents and complain to your travel agent or the tour operator as soon as possible after getting home.

If your complaint is still not met, you can then seek the help of a Citizens' Advice Bureau or a consumer advice centre or, if you believe you have been seriously misled, show the evidence to your local authority trading standards department.

You should also promptly contact Abta's conciliation department at 55-57 Newman Street, London, W1, preferably in writing enclosing copies of your correspondence. The conciliation service is free and settlement is reached in about three-quarters of the cases handled.

If conciliation fails the next recourse could be to seek independent arbitration devised by the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators for Abta customers. The customer may have the complaint considered on documents alone, in which case his costs are limited to twice the amount of a registration fee of £10, plus £2 for each member of his family over 11. However, if the customer wishes to attend the hearing, there is no limitation on the liability for costs.

For claims under £200 the customer might prefer to go to a small claims court, where costs are also limited. But, with expensive holidays that

have been completely spoilt, neither the arbitration scheme nor small claims courts might be thought to offer adequate compensation.

Last year a family which arrived at Tenerife airport to be told they would have to go to a different hotel were awarded £1,323 damages at Ashby-de-la-Zouch county court—almost one-tenth of the total paid out to all complainants under Abta arbitrations.

In their case the judge found that an Abta member had failed to warn the clients that they would have to stay in a different hotel, though it was known before they left. The holiday was a disaster, and the family received no benefit.

Of course, the outcome of court proceedings are never predictable and the complainant must be prepared to run the risk of substantial costs. But holidaymakers are still at a disadvantage in pursuing their complaints. They are obliged, unlike customers for almost any other goods or services, to pay in full in advance.

They have to accept a wide range of booking conditions, many of which may be to their disadvantage. And they do not even have the protection of the Trade Descriptions Act if the hotel or swimming pool in their brochure is incomplete when they arrive.

Robin Young

Green tape for the motorist abroad

If you are taking your car to the Continent the insurance position is more involved than it looks.

From the strictly legal point of view you need do nothing before driving on the ferry if you are going to another EEC country and a number of other countries (Spain is a notable exception)—provided you have a United Kingdom motor policy.

Do not, however, settle for that. However wide your insurance may be in the United Kingdom, on the Continent you will have no more cover than the bare minimum required by law. This varies from country to country, but applies only to your liability to others. There is, therefore, no cover for theft of the car, accidental damage and so on.

The best plan, therefore, is to have your policy extended, so that you have the same cover as in this country (plus a bit more). An extra premium will have to be paid for this and you will be issued with a "Green Card", which is really an international certificate of insurance.

It is the extension of cover under your policy for which you will be paying. For many countries on the Continent you are not obliged to have a Green Card, although if you have one it can be a help in the event of an accident.

The extra premium which you pay will provide insurance for the car on the ferry. It will also usually cover you for any import duty which you may be charged by a foreign country if you take the car into it but are unable to bring it home, because for instance, it has been stolen.

If you are towing a caravan the insurance will also need to be extended and you should make sure that it is included on the Green Card.

You cannot shop around for Green Card cover. As it is an extension of your existing policy, you have to buy it from your insurers and the cost can vary widely. Some brokers, such as Barclay's Insurance Services, include it free.

Spanish authorities have the right after an accident to detain a driver and/or his car, unless a deposit is made against their liability. If the driver being held liable. To avoid such a situation your insurers should be able to provide a bail bond which will act as surety. If any fine is paid on your behalf you will have to repay it to the insurers.

The motoring organizations, and some insurers, also provide extra cover to meet the cost of hiring a car of your own breaks down, and bringing it home if it cannot be repaired on the Continent. In some cases a service is also offered to locate and fly out spare parts, although generally you still have to meet the cost of the parts, unless, of course, you need them as a result of an accident covered by your main policy.

John Drummond

By Ross

Grouse

Most Britishers in employment (or who have retired employment) can obtain free medical treatment while other EEC countries. This is a reciprocal arrangement available to nationals of all EEC member states. Form from the Department of Health and Social Security guarantee the availability of this right while abroad.

Until recently the self-employed were in the unfortunate position of not being eligible for an E111 and the rights—whether travelling on business or pleasure, was as unfair as requiring the self-employed to pay ear-related National Insurance contributions, but allowing only flat-rate benefits.

Then the rules were altered. Now, somebody who insured as self-employed, if he has been employed in time, is eligible. He will continue to be eligible when he retires.

It may seem as though discrimination has been eliminated. Admittedly, it puts many self-employed people on the footing as those who are employed. But the rules discriminate against the man or woman who has been self-employed for the whole of his or her working life—despite the fact that he or she may never have missed paying contributions.

That discrimination will continue even after retirement at which point he or she will have more time to continental trips.

Surely it would be better for eligibility to be based on contributions, rather than on whether a person has to have been employed at some stage, instead of employed throughout his or her working career?

Fun with foreign bank accounts

Since the Chancellor removed exchange controls last October, there is at least one element in your holiday prices that you can control. This is the element due to movement in the value of the foreign currency of your holiday destination against the pound.

As anyone knows who has ever tried changing sterling or sterling travellers' cheques abroad—particularly in provincial France—at a time when the pound has been under pressure, currency movements can make quite a difference to both the worth of your wallet and the level of your spending power.

If you want to be sure that these remain constant, what you should do is open a foreign currency bank account. You have to know where you are going of course, so it is not a policy for people who do not make up their minds until they are half way to the Channel ferry at Dover. You can open a foreign currency account with your local clearing bank, open an account with a foreign bank in Britain or open one abroad.

On the whole, the middle course is not recommended. You will need a high initial deposit, charges are higher

than they would be on a clearing bank account, the services for your purposes are not likely to be any better.

Opening up an account abroad could be a great day home which you let that you obtain local and incur local expense be warned. In most European countries bank charges higher than they are in (though you will probably incur on your account).

Do not expect a clearing bank to welcome with open arms if you want to keep the odd bit of money in Swiss francs, require a deposit of a substantial sum (upwards of £1,000) before they will open a foreign currency account for you. Then, anyone taking a holiday abroad for a couple of days is probably going to see any of spending anyway.

The interest that you get on your account will be a small interest rate in the currency you are using. The attached table shows the current rates on which money—that is, an amount of £50,000. Assume you will be getting a couple of points less on your odd but check at the time, but rates vary from day to day.

How much you get will depend on the length of for which you are prepared to commit your money. I belong to the sort of person that plans in meticulous months in advance, you afford to go for a deposit of one month's notice. But I make spur-of-the-moment decisions to up sticks and you had better make do with the lower return on days' money.

Adrienne Glee

Currency versus cheque

Before joining the great summer migration in search of sunny climates abroad, you had to arrange how to take your money with you (actual amount unlimited).

Ask your bank for information of any local rulings and the acceptability of different forms of currency at your destination. Banks normally recommend you take the bulk of your money in travellers' cheques with enough cash to see you through the first day or so until you have the chance to cash your cheques.

Sterling travellers' cheques normally attract a better exchange rate than pound notes at a foreign bank. It is also worth shopping around before cashing travellers' cheques—banks usually give a better exchange rate than hotels, shops or restaurants, and there are often variations from bank to bank.

There is a commission charge, normally of 1 per cent, when you cash cheques, while on foreign currency there is a small exchange commission, which can be as little as 50p on holiday money of £500.

Not only is it cheaper to take your money in foreign notes, it also saves you having to go to the bank while away. But this option is not always open. Some countries—for example Greece, Malta and South Africa—restrict the amount of local currency brought into the country.

The advantage in travellers' cheques over any form of cash is their security. If they are stolen, all is not lost. On reporting the loss, the bank gives an immediate refund of at least part of your money to tide you over until the balance is paid within a few days.

Cash, of course, can be insured, with certain limits, but it is unlikely that the insurance company will make to pay out before the end of the average trip.

In some places—for example the United States and South America—sterling travellers' cheques are not always readily acceptable. Then foreign currency travellers' cheques are the answer. As well as the normal 1 per cent commission there is also a small exchange commission charge, but this is usually even less than that on foreign notes.

Unspent sterling travellers'

cheques can be exchanged for pound. But foreign currency travellers' cheques you might lose if exchange rate moves against you. If you are a European holidaymaker, have the use of cheque with a banker's card to up to £50 a time. Barclay's customers need to get a cheque card to guarantee cheques presented overseas. Cheques are not accepted in other banks across the Channel.

This is best left as emergency money as the commission charged is likely to be higher than on travel cheques.

Credit cards are useful restaurant bills or car hire before you set off clutch your Barclaycard or Access card, check that they will be used. Neither Barclaycard nor Access are accepted in many of the Benelux countries. Barclaycard has the over Access until last year. As well as paying entertainment and travel, can draw up to £100 a in local currency with a limit of £500 a trip for a 10 day charge of 1.5 per cent. Barclaycard is cheaper to cash a cheque.

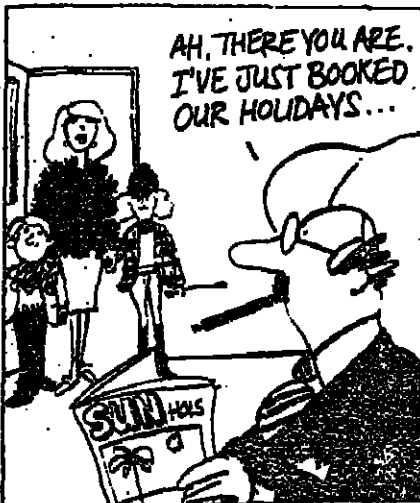
One point to watch on credit cards is that what actually pays depends on the exchange rate when the card is actually cashed. Access, and this can be a few days or several weeks. So if exchange rates move against you during that time, it present might not be such a bargain as you thought.

An American Express card can be used throughout the world and although basically travel and entertainment card it can also be used to a limit of £500 every three weeks for extra charges.

Of course, all these problems of "what can be used where?" can be solved by using a universal accept medium of exchange—to the medium of exchange. So far, though, the best not to use as a means holiday finance.

Sylvia Morris

HOFF of HEYBRIDGE HEATH



AH, THERE YOU ARE. I'VE JUST BOOKED OUR HOLIDAYS...

BUT, AFTER FUEL CHARGES, CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS, STERLING, KENNELING, HOLIDAY INSURANCE, ETC.

WE'LL HAVE TO DRAW LOTS TO SEE WHO'S STAYING BEHIND!

WE'LL HAVE TO DRAW LOTS TO SEE WHO'S STAYING BEHIND!

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EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

me-sharing a villa

in the sun is the life of many holidaymakers from these islands. Wind-torn islands and dreams come true even when they are in a small, suburban Mediterranean-style villa.

destruction from the recent currency premium on property investment. On June 13 last followed by a wholesale of exchange controls, the villa remains, it is worth property overseas, with attendant problems, financial, security, let alone?

with for account

Holiday perks for investors

As we all know to our cost, a holiday is a time when one's usual life is turned upside down. One frequently overlooked way of making the most of this time is to take advantage of the concessions which some of the holiday companies offer their shareholders.

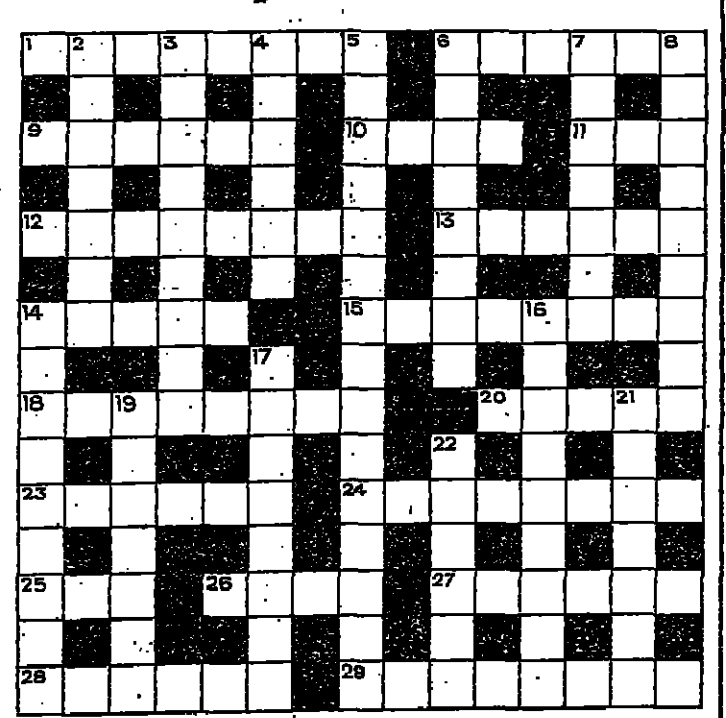
Concessions available to members	Minimum shareholding required	Price and commitment at 1/4/80
5 vouchers entitling shareholders to a double room and breakfast in Co's 57 UK. Crest hotels for £10, VAT, or Eurocrest hotels in Belgium, France, Germany, Holland and Italy for £15 per night (offer applies to any weekend in 1980. Dis 20% to 50%).	50 25p ord	219p £111
Shareholders invited to visit Co's 5 star hotel in Cairo at a discount of 50% between mid-May to mid-September.	all 5p ord	85p
Townsend Thoresen ferry fares: Dover-Calais/Zeebrugge 50% dis. Felixstowe-Zeebrugge 50% dis. Felixstowe-Rotterdam 40% dis. Southampton / Portsmouth / Cherbourg / Le Havre 40% dis. Cairnryan-Larne 25% dis. (on register from Feb 1, 1980).	300 25p ord	104p £312
15% dis on offpeak boating holidays on River Shannon (Emerald Star Line), Norfolk Broads (F. B. Wilds), French Canal du Midi (Blue Line Cruisers) and River Loire (Loire Line) during 1980.	all 25p ord	85p
75% dis on inclusive holidays, providing shareholder travels with the party (max dis £37.50. Apply after 12 months on register).	500 5p ord	242p £1,210
20% winter dis & 10% summer dis on accom, meals and drinks at Dragonair, Palace Hotel and Grand Hotel Verdala, Malta.	200 M25c ord	100p £200
10% dis Marquis Room restaurant (not Sat). Also on Lido admission, Reef Club sub and hire of Palace Suite.	500 M25c ord	100p £500
Free admission to Casino with guest.	200 EM1 part pref	95p £190
Reduced ferry fares: Southampton-Le Havre 50% dis. Dover-Southampton 50% dis. Aberdeen-Larne 30% dis. Scarborough-Stromness 30% dis. (last two: except July and August).	200 £1 did	111p £222
Navigation	500 £1 did	39p £195
15% dis on all Cunard cruises, fly-cruiser and sailings, and Cunard/Trafalgar hotels in Caribbean and UK.	500 £20p ord	83p £315
15% dis on certain Southampton-New York sailings, also on American tours with aircraft return (on register at April 1, 1980).		

Crossword for holidaymakers

got a severe talking-to his pranks at Christmas, as definitely shown the card. So, this time he is low, and there are not some misprints. But he whispered to me what he had up his sleeve for Christmas and I shuddered. Meanwhile something to take a round-the-world cruise same you all know Alibi-Chambers's Dictionary is intended.

book taken for the first time to be opened on 16. All answers to be sent to The Times Crossword, PO Box 7, Iron Road, London, W.C1. Solution will be published on 17.

ACROSS
1. British, is heavy at sea—typical of Royal and scientist (8).
2.repid expedition in which a distant point of view is all in up (6).
3. He, without the French, is by not half! Such a pity (4).
4. regret for a street in Agassiz (3).
5. ancient, needed a popular holiday (8).
6. ayes inasly about one old of Yugoslavia (6).
7. m off the beaten track, without any article, incidentally (5).
8. ried out "me, dreamy"? possibly (8).
9. ransport sails erratically to easternmost part of Yokosuka—with effrontery, too (5).
10. r, sefant, in estiole vert (5).
11. ound sterling is good in France and capital elsewhere (6).
12. ffensive person needs protection against police (8).
13. orkers on railways hasten back (3).



26. More than one local river in Tiro (South) (4).
27. I'm entirely Roman, mooting madly and endlessly (2, 4).
28. A gentle pain might attack one in Paris (6).
29. Financial adviser, one with professional qualification, was esteemed as help against venomous onslaught (8).
30. Beginner, one to boast about first step in reading—and where he took it? (7).
31. Sum-tanned crowd celebrated—the devil it did! (5, 4).
32. I'm terribly cold: I'll come embracing a girl to start with—energy's needed, too (3-3).
33. "Stay boy" he hailed wildly. Nice recreation? (7, 2, 3, 3).

Colin Leach

Stock markets

Interest confined to oil sector

A combination of technical factors and the Easter holiday period saw market turnover grind almost to a halt on Thursday.

Equities resumed their subdued appearance while even gilts, an enthusiastic market recently, a count down to very little business. It was left to oil again to provide interest as keen buyers, particularly among the majors, kept up the support.

Elsewhere, equities remained in the doldrums with prices easing following the end of the financial year and the consequent drying up of orders for "bed & breakfast" deals. With the long weekend holiday, dealers were reluctant to take up new positions ahead of the final few days of the account next week.

In gilts, jobbers reported very little business after a week of hectic two-way business which saw the new 27 Treasury 14 per cent 1996 exchange a few hours after being activated. In long prices fluctuated between 11/16 either way throughout the day, finishing mostly unchanged at the close. At the shorter end of the market, initial buying interest soon faded through lack of follow-through, and prices closed around 1/2 firm. Activity in after-hours almost ground to a halt with market men anxious through lack of inquiry to make an early start to the holiday period.

As a result the FT Index closed 0.5 up at 432.6 after being 0.8 down at 3 p.m.

The recovery in the Index was helped by late buying from the United States in shares of B2, one of the FT constituents.

which pushed the price up 8p to 370p. Jobbers were taken somewhat by surprise by the late surge of interest particu-

BSR has been bobbing about on hopes of a bid from RCA. The shares hardened up to 37p on Thursday. The talk is that RCA is developing its video disc system for Europe and is thinking of buying out suppliers. BSR will probably make the "transport" (motors) for the systems. It is, however, thought that RCA has been misinformed, and that BSR's annual report due soon will be grim. The company's broker has sent clients a very cautious circular.

Early by its United States origins. In recent months American investors had been heavy sellers of the British oil majors, and had been one of the prime causes for their recent setback.

Buying elsewhere in the sector was fairly evenly spread with Shell rising 4p to 344p and Ultramar 6p to 536p.

Burmah, a firm issue in late dealing on Wednesday, continued to gain ground with rumours of a cash bonus helping to stoke up interest. The shares closed at the top with a rise of 4p to 210p.

Among second-liners interest was kept alive by the latest reports of a major oil find by Marathon Oil. This again helped the shares of Siebens, which has a substantial stake, to a 38p rise at 668p. Tricentral was unchanged at 286p while Laseco rose 5p to 451p and Premier came advanced 2p to 58p.

The dull conditions were perfectly mirrored by the leading industrials, which moved in a band of between 1p and 3p. Pilkington Bros fell 3p to 205p, while falls of 2p were noted in ICI at 37p, Fisons at 267p, and Unilever at 401p. Bowater, with figures next week, was 1p

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
Airsprung (F)	16.3(12.8)	0.8(1.2)	11.1(15.9)	2.3(—)	—	4.7(4.7)
Babcock (F)	845(778)	32.0(39.6)	18.7(25.3)	3.6(—)	—	7.0(5.86)
Breckon Line (F)	3.9(3.8)	1.1(0.8)	1.1(0.8)	2.3(—)	23/5	8.0(—)
Burton S. (F)	11.1(10.8)	1.1(1.4)	1.1(1.4)	4.8(4.7)	30/6	8.6(7.8)
A. Beckman (I)	7.3(8.7)	0.2(1.0)	0.2(1.0)	1.9(1.9)	25/5	—
J. Hopworth (I)	29.7(25.63)	3.5(3.75)	—	0.79(0.79)	26/5	3.79(2.54)
Thos. Jordan (F)	12.5(11.1)	1.1(1.1)	1.1(1.1)	3.1(3.1)	—	4.2(3.2)
London Brick (F)	12.5(11.1)	1.1(1.1)	1.1(1.1)	2.6(2.19)	—	4.3(3.63)
Magnolia (F)	6.5(5.5)	1.1(0.97)	1.1(0.97)	1.5(—)	30/5	2.1(1.15)
R. P. Martin (I)	3.2(2.4)	0.2(0.2)	0.2(0.2)	1.5(1.5)	17/5	—
Wm. Morrison (F)	13.0(11.0)	4.9(5.57)	20.9(16.22)	1.5(0.65)	26/5	2.2(1.0)
Robinson Grp (F)	1.2(1.15)	1.4(1.58)	—	—	—	—
L. Ryan (F)	6.1(5.25)	0.8(1.25)	0.8(1.25)	2(—)	30/5	2.75(2.5)
W. J. Wootton (F)	5.0(4.0)	0.3(0.3)	0.3(0.3)	—	—	—
Wombwell (I)	3.7(3.3)	0.16(0.25)	—	0.37(0.37)	—	—

Briefly

Sharia Wars: Turnover for 1979, £15.1m (£15.2m). Pretax profit, £3.2m (£3.6m). Total payment, £7.5p (£8.6p).

Bernard Matthews: Sales for 1979, £24.5m (£22.48m). Pretax profit, £3.2m (£3.6m). Total payment, £7.5p (£8.6p).

Home Counties Newspapers: Turnover for last year rose from £7.69m to £9.85m. Pretax profits up from £955,000 to £1.31m. Total gross dividend £2.2p. Reduced profit for first two months of new year.

English Property Corp: Pretax revenue for year to Oct 31, £1.1m (£1.3m) after interest of £13m (£11.3m). Accounts show ex gratia payments to former directors of £150,000.

Executive Clothes is acquiring W. J. Fotherby (clothing) for £400,000, of which £375,000 cash and balance in shares. Subject to a pretax profit reaching £50,000 for the 12 months to December 31 next, further maximum payment of £100,000.

Savoy Hotel: Pre-tax profit for 1979 £519,000 (£1.1m). Conditions generally in United Kingdom and elsewhere were increasingly less favourable for the tourist trade with visitors to this country from the United States declining in number by 14 per cent in the first six months.

Diakle Heel: Turnover for 1979 £1.66m (£1.37m). Pretax profit £238,000 (£292,000). Dividend is held at 0.7p gross. Chairman states that 1979 was an extremely difficult year. Although the new factory was completed in March 1979, it was not fully operational until early in 1980.

New Capital Issues: Statistics compiled by Midland Bank show that the amount of new money raised in the United Kingdom by the issue of marketable securities in March was £55m, the largest monthly total this year, but only about three-quarters of the amount raised in the corresponding month in 1979.

Hall-Thermostat: Turnover for 1979, £79,721m (£81,744m). Pre-tax profit £4,197m (£4,393m). Eps 8.3p (9.4p). Lloyds Holding Co is AFV Holdings.

Gieves Group at adjourned agm, resolution to put company in voluntary liquidation was passed. Proposals for reconstruction have been agreed. The company is now being run by Gieves group shareholders. They have also become holders of shares in James Burn (Holdings).

Courtaulds: Following negotiations between Courtaulds and Mr Robert M. Eitel provisional agreement has been reached whereby Mr Eitel will incorporate a new company to be called Susan Small which will acquire the Susan Small and Strelitz businesses (of which Mr Eitel is currently the managing director, from Courtaulds).

W. S. Yeates: Turnover for year to October 31 £20.39m (£15.73m). Pre-tax profit £1.44m (£1.37m). Eps 61.4p (40.9p). Results for first three months are "most encouraging" and board hopes that group will make further progress and produce another good result.

Bayer reports that orders so far in 1980 have remained at a good level and that satisfactory business development continues. Parent-company fixed assets investments this year probably rise to some DM95m from DM76m in 1979, while group fixed asset spending in 1980 is estimated at DM23.0bn against DM22.4bn last year.

Bayer reported a world group, 1979 pretax profit of DM1.34bn on sales of DM26bn compared with pretax of DM1.24bn on turnover of DM22.84bn in 1978.

Parent-company sales in the fourth-quarter of 1979 rose to DM2.74bn from DM2.42bn in the same 1978 period. Some DM1.05bn of the total was domestic sales, against DM966m a year earlier and DM1.69bn were exports, compared with DM1.45bn.

Babcock counts cost of strikes

By Peter Wilson-Smith
Engineer and contractor Babcock International saw pretax profits fall by £7.51m in 1979 to £32.0m. The group blames the transport and engineering strikes, which, together with the strong pound, more than accounted for the fall.

The outlook for 1980 is described as "not promising" and Babcock will be striving to reduce costs as far as possible, in order to maintain profits.

The steel strike has not caused serious disruption except in two of the group's operations. But Babcock found new orders increasingly elusive as 1979 progressed. Babcock Construction Equipment managed to buck this trend and a surge of new orders in the final

quarter left it with record order books. Uncompleted orders for the group, however, were only £806m at the year end, compared with £878m at the end of 1978. Worst sufferers were the contracting companies where worldwide enquiries slackened and competition for business intensified.

Group turnover in 1979 rose from £778m to £845m including £26.3m turnover from the recent acquisitions, Keeler and Allart. However, pretax profits of £32.0m were largely wiped out by the related financing costs.

Group interest charges net of investment and other income rose from £13.6m to £17.85m. Babcock suffered a hefty cash

outflow during 1979. Apart from the £42.9m spent on acquisitions, the group invested £26.6m in new plant and facilities.

Profits from Babcock Construction Equipment in the United Kingdom were less than half the 1978 level. Overseas profits were depressed by losses on currency translation and a long loss from Claudius Peters, which had to provide for non-recovery of debts from Iranian customers and elsewhere.

Despite a fall in stated earnings per share from 25.3p to 18.7p, the final dividend has been raised to leave the year's gross total up by 17 per cent at 10p. Down 2p to 93p after the figures the shares yield 10.8 per cent.

Morgan Crucible raises pretax profits by £2.5m

By Our Financial Staff
Morgan Crucible, the carbon and metals engineering group, increased pretax profits for 1979 by £2.5m to £1.8m. Sales rose by more than £13m to £113m. The company says that this year has started "with sound markets".

Morgan is divided into three. The Carbon Division specialises in producing graphite materials, originally for trolley cradles. A major line is carbon brushes, for electric motors of all sizes, made in Swansea. Profits in carbon went up by £1.3m last year to £7.19m, on sales of £49.6m, a 5m increase.

The Thermic Division manufactures materials used in processes demanding great heat. Its sales showed a 5m rise to £40.3m, while pretax profits were up £1.2m to £5.03m.

Precision metal, plastic and lubricant materials are made by the Acorn division. Pretax profits here were £2.33m against £1.69m, and sales grew by almost 54m to £19.4m.

Hepworth falls 6.4pc at half-year

By Our Financial Staff
J. Hepworth, one of the menswear success stories of recent times, is entitled to be philosophical about the fall in pretax profits of 6.4 per cent to £3.51m on a sales gain of 16 per cent to £27.2m in the half year to February 29. But this was slower than inflation.

Hepworth is trying to avoid recession by widening the product range. During the last downturn, of 1974-75, the group was much more a straightforward maker and seller of men's suits and overcoats. Today a quarter of business is in ties, shirts, socks and shoes where mark-ups can be high.

Hepworth also claims that its prices have risen less fast than inflation, and that competition from a revitalized Burton, let alone newcomer Marks & Spencer, does not bother it.

Prospects for retail trade in general over Hepworth's second half look tough, but it seems that Hepworth has far from lost hope of regaining the ground lost in the first six months.

Meanwhile, tax has punished profits. The charge went up 26 per cent to £1.85m, thanks, the directors explain, to the absence of stock appreciation relief. So net profits fell from £2.19m to £1.65m. Mr Jeffrey, managing director, says that Hepworth is not in business to pile up stocks to lighten tax. Stocks were held down to conserve cash.

The group has also been pruning staff to the 365 shops. Since last November it has fallen by 10 per cent. From May, Hepworth should also benefit from footwear and handbag group W. & E. Turner, whose directors have irrevocably accepted a bid for 52.1 per cent of the shares. Last year Turner made £1.67m in pretax profits from its 145 shops.

Hepworth shares hardened 1p to 63p on relief that the figures were not worse.

Wm Morrison nears £5m

By Our Financial Staff
Maintained consumer spending throughout 1979 helped to raise pretax profits of Bradford-based Wm Morrison Supermarkets from £3.7m to £4.59m. Earnings per share rose from 16.22p to 20.97p. The directors say that sales in the current year are also above budget, and show growth in volume of about 7 per cent.

Sales grew by 13.3 per cent to £140m, while trading profit was up 29.1 per cent to £4.61m. The directors have declared a final dividend of 2.14p gross, making a total for the year of 3.14p gross compared with 1.49p in 1978. The rate of dividend increase is likely to be maintained this year.

But the directors also warn that costs are increasing faster than prices. The company is therefore directing its energies towards cutting costs.

Morrison, which operates 25 stores in the north of England, points out that 1978's results include the £1m costs of purchasing and other costs of developing Whelans Discounts stores. However, Whelans is expected to turn over about £50m in 1980.

Some 75 per cent of Morrison's turnover is foodstuffs and groceries. While the company does not expect that prevailing economic conditions will damage sales, it does say that gross margins, which it declines to reveal, are being squeezed.

Steady growth at Bayer

Bayer reports that orders so far in 1980 have remained at a good level and that satisfactory business development continues. Parent-company fixed assets investments this year probably rise to some DM95m from DM76m in 1979, while group fixed asset spending in 1980 is estimated at DM23.0bn against DM22.4bn last year.

Bayer reported a world group, 1979 pretax profit of DM1.34bn on sales of DM26bn compared with pretax of DM1.24bn on turnover of DM22.84bn in 1978.

Parent-company sales in the fourth-quarter of 1979 rose to DM2.74bn from DM2.42bn in the same 1978 period. Some DM1.05bn of the total was domestic sales, against DM966m a year earlier and DM1.69bn were exports, compared with DM1.45bn.

Mitsubishi deal
Mitsubishi Electric has acquired a 15 per cent interest in AWA-Thorn Consumer Products, a joint Australian-British colour TV set group at a cost of \$A1.5m. Mitsubishi has supplied AWA-

Thorn with parts for colour TV sets and colour TV manufacturing technology since 1974. Industry sources said that AWA-Thorn, established in 1973 jointly by Australia's AWA and Thorn Electric of Britain; initially used Thorn Electric's colour TV manufacturing technology, but the firm has now switched to Mitsubishi's technology—Reuter.

Airco sale
Airco Inc, BOC International wholly-owned United States subsidiary, has sold its Special Electronics division to a group of closely related companies. The division, one of Airco's smallest, manufactures resistors and other passive electronic components, at locations in Arizona, Pennsylvania, Mexico and Singapore.

Furness signals a warning to Mr Narby

By Peter Wainwright

A grim message is signalled to Mr Frank Narby, the Canadian shipping entrepreneur who controls Eurocanadian Shipholding, from the bridge of Furness Withy. The Furness board has blessed a 420p bid from Orient Overseas Container, controlled by Mr C. Y. Tung of Hong Kong.

The message came with what could be the last annual figures to be released by Furness as an independent group, which accompanied the formal offer from Orient.

Mr Narby, who was foiled by the Office of Fair Trading from taking over Furness himself, is in effect being told that he can be locked in to Furness as a minority holder with around 19 per cent of the shares under his influence or accept the Tug bid like everyone else.

It is possible, however, that Mr Tung might do a deal with him over Manchester Liners, where Mr Narby has a minority stake.

The deal would simply be to take Mr Narby out of Manchester Liners, not let him buy Furness. Even this is by no means certain—Mr Narby could after all never agree with Furness over his share.

Mr Brian Shaw, chairman of Furness, could not say anything about a possible bid reference to the Monopolies Commission by the Office of Fair Trading; he thought the Tug bid was welcome, but that Furness did not solicit a bid from anyone.

The board was, however, keen to get semi-secret, hostile share blocks off its hands.

The figures for the year to last December showed that Furness, after making a pretax profit of only £901,000 in the six months to June 30 (which upset the City and started bid stories going), went on to make £7.3m in the second half year. So 1979's pretax profits only fell from £12.2m to £3.2m. The book net asset value a share of 450p.

Inflation adjusting, SSAP16 style would be misleading, Mr Shaw said. Trends this year are good, though tentative.

Complaint over letter from broker

By Philip Robinson

A complaint has been made to the Stock Exchange over a letter sent by stockbroker William Chapman of Nottingham offering cash payments to shareholders in the family-controlled Leicester textile group Towles.

The letter offers 122p for the ordinary shares, 57p for the A Preference and 50p for the B Preference shares.

But Mr Peter Bailey, chairman of Palma Textiles, a 23 per cent holder of Towles ordinary shares, said: "We have complained through stockbrokers acting for shares recently in the market at prices above what they are offering. This letter is totally unfair to the small shareholders."

William Chapman's letter claims that their offer compares with prices in the market of 122p for the ordinary, 57p for the A Pref and 39p for the B Pref.

In the market on Thursday night the ordinary shares were trading in line with Chapman's offer price but the A and B shares were trading 45p above the price they have offered to shareholders.

Towles ended its year on February 28, 1980. Its figures are due out around May 1.

Bank Base Rates

Bank	Base Rate
ABN Bank	17%
Barclays Bank	17%
BCCI Bank	17%
Consolidated Crdis	17%
C. Hoare & Co	17%
Lloyds Bank	17%
London Mercantile	17%
Midland Bank	17%
Nat Westminster	17%
Rossminster	17%
TSB	17%
Williams and Glyn's	17%

* 7 day deposit on sums of £10,000 and under 15% up to £25,000 15% over

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212

The Over-the-Counter Market

99	63	Airsprung Group	63	-1	6.7	10.6	*3.7
50	28	Armitage & Rhodes	28	-1	3.8	13.6	1.8
255	185	Bardon Hill	255	—	13.8	5.4	7.3
100	80	County-Cars Pref	80	—	15.3	19.1	—
101	63	Deborah Ord	97	-2	5.0	5.1	10.8
107	88	Frank Horsell	107	—	7.9	7.4	6.8
129	98	Frederick Parker	98	—	12.8	12.3	12.4
156	102	George Blair	107	+1	16.5	13.3	14.1
70	45	Jackson Group	70	—	3.2	7.4	14.1
153	113	James Burroughs	114	-1	7.2	6.3	10.0
300	242	Robert Jenkins	270	+5	31.3	14.6	*5.8
232	175	Todday Limited	220	+2	14.3	6.5	*7.5
34	113	Twinnock Ord	111	-1	0.8	7.3	*2.3
80	70	Twinnock 12% ULS	79	+1	12.0	15.2	—
56	23	Twinnock Holdings	49	—	2.6	5.3	10.4
49	48	Twinnock Holdings New	49	—	—	—	10.4
99	42	Walter Alexander	99	+2	4.4	4.4	6.6
190	136	W. S. Yates	186	+2	12.1	6.5	*3.0

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

London Brick ends £2m down

By Our Financial Staff

Price rises restored profit margins at London Brick in the second half of the year to December 31, and profits were well up on the comparable period.

Not enough, however, to make up for the 54 per cent drop in first-half profits to £3.07m before tax, and full-year profits were £2m lower at £12.1m.

After a higher tax charge of £5.13m compared with £4.99m, the fall in attributable profits was sharper.

Excluding a £2.08 extraordinary credit arising mainly from the profit on the sale of shares in Norcor, earnings per share fell from 15.3p to 11.7p. However, the final dividend rises

by a fifth, to leave the year's total up by 19 per cent at 6.24p gross. Down by 1p to 7.41p, the share yield 4.4 per cent.

Pre-interest profit margins rose from 6.2 per cent in the first half to 13.3 per cent in the second. This was largely due to price rises of 12 per cent in June and a further 10 per cent in August.

Group turnover rose by only 12 per cent to £155m, disguising a fall in sales volume of around 15 per cent during the year. Well over half of London Brick's sales go to the housing market and 1979 has been a poor year with 1980 likely to prove worse.

However, London Brick has succeeded in taking up some of the slack by increasing its share of the repair and maintenance

market. This accounted for about a quarter of 1979 sales compared with about 15 per cent in 1978.

Interest charges in 1979 rose from £12.0m to £17.0m. The cash released by the sale of Norcor shares contributed to the £831,000 rise in investment income to £1.21m, which more than offset the rise in interest charges. The group had a positive cash flow in 1979.

London Brick does not reveal profit adjusted for current cost accounting with the preliminary announcement. However, the group confirms that the dividend was still covered by current cost profits.

Group deputy chairman Mr M. O. Wright says that volume sales may fall in the current year.

Options

Activity among traded options took another nosedive Thursday as the subdued conditions in the remainder of the market spilled over once again. Total contracts fell from Wednesday's level of 384 to only 148.

Most business was centred on ICI where 50 contracts were traded. The April 390p series proved popular although some interest was expressed in the April and July 360p series.

In traditional options, speculative interest ran to Burmah, Courtaulds, Grattan, Warehouses and Siebens. No "puts" were arranged but doubles were completed in First National Finance and Ultramar.

Discount market

Large-scale help given by the Bank of England to the discount market on Thursday was chiefly provided by way of large MLR loans to two or three house units Tuesday. The authorities also bought a small quantity of Treasury bills from the houses.

Discount houses were paying in the band of 16 1/2 to 17 per cent for secured money advanced throughout, though a little cheaper credit being sought to appear near the finish of the week.

Principal drains on credit were the unwinding of a large purchase and resale agreement in bills, the repayment of moderate MLR loans taken on Wednesday, and a small net Treasury bill take-up. The only plus item for the market was the small amount that bank bills came above target from Wednesday.

Money Market

Rate of Bank of England Lending Rate 12 1/2%

Overnight Bank Bill 12 1/2% (12 1/2% to 12 3/4%)

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Wall Street

New York, April 2.—Stock prices on the New York Stock Exchange were higher, but below the highs reached earlier in the session.

The Dow Jones industrial average gained 3.33 points to 787.80, off its earlier high point of 790.40, but led declines about 10 to four on volume of about 23 million shares.

Among stocks showing gains were those in interest rate sensitive groups like savings and loans, banks and life insurance companies.

Analysts saw the advance as a continuation of the technical recovery from recent sharp drops. Some investors believe the prime rate, now 20 per cent at many banks, is near or possibly at its peak.

Life gained 1 1/2 to 3 1/2. Chase Manhattan Bank 1 1/2 to 3 1/2 and Great Western up 1 1/2 to 3 1/2.

Analysts said the advance today could also be seen as a continuation of the technical recovery from recent sharp drops.

The market was mixed in the morning, turned higher, then advanced quickly in the afternoon. Last hour and one-half of trading.

One of the most active stocks today was Aetna Life which gained 1 1/2 to 3 1/2. Gulf United, also on the active list, rose 1 1/2 to 3 1/2.

Travelers Corp. was up 1 1/2 to 3 1/2 and Continental Corp. one to 2 1/2.

Among savings and loan associations, First Charter Financial gained 1 1/2 to 3 1/2 and Great Western Financial 1 1/2 to 3 1/2.

The Wall Street and Canadian stock prices given in the table relate to Wednesday's and Thursday's close. Later publication is caused by the change to British Summer Time. This will continue until Eastern Daylight Time begins in the United States.

Silver gain of 60c

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